Arrested officer links Lacson to Dacer slay

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2001 ★★ 46 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 177 ₱15

Congress passes power reform bill

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

IT'S DONE.

The controversial power reform bill now awaits the signature of President Macapagal-Arroyo for it to become a law after the Senate ratified it last night with a vote of 13-1-1.

Four days ago, the House of Representa-

CONGRESS/ A14

Roco gives free lecture to Korina

BY B. RIVERA

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco decided to give a free lecture during the first day of school yesterday and it was to acerbic broadcaster

ROCO/ A15

'WAG KANG PIKON...

Military seeks emergency powers vs Abu

Gloria, advisers studying proposal

BY CARLITO PABLO, MARTIN MARFIL AND ARMAND NOCUM

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo and her advisers are evaluating a proposal to declare a state of emergency in Basilan after the military hinted strongly that such a declaration would help it wipe out the Abu Sayyaf group in southwestern Mindanao, Malacañang said yesterday.

But presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao stressed that the proposal was not being regarded as a priority, amid mixed reactions from lawmakers, including Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who urged the government to impose martial law in the province.

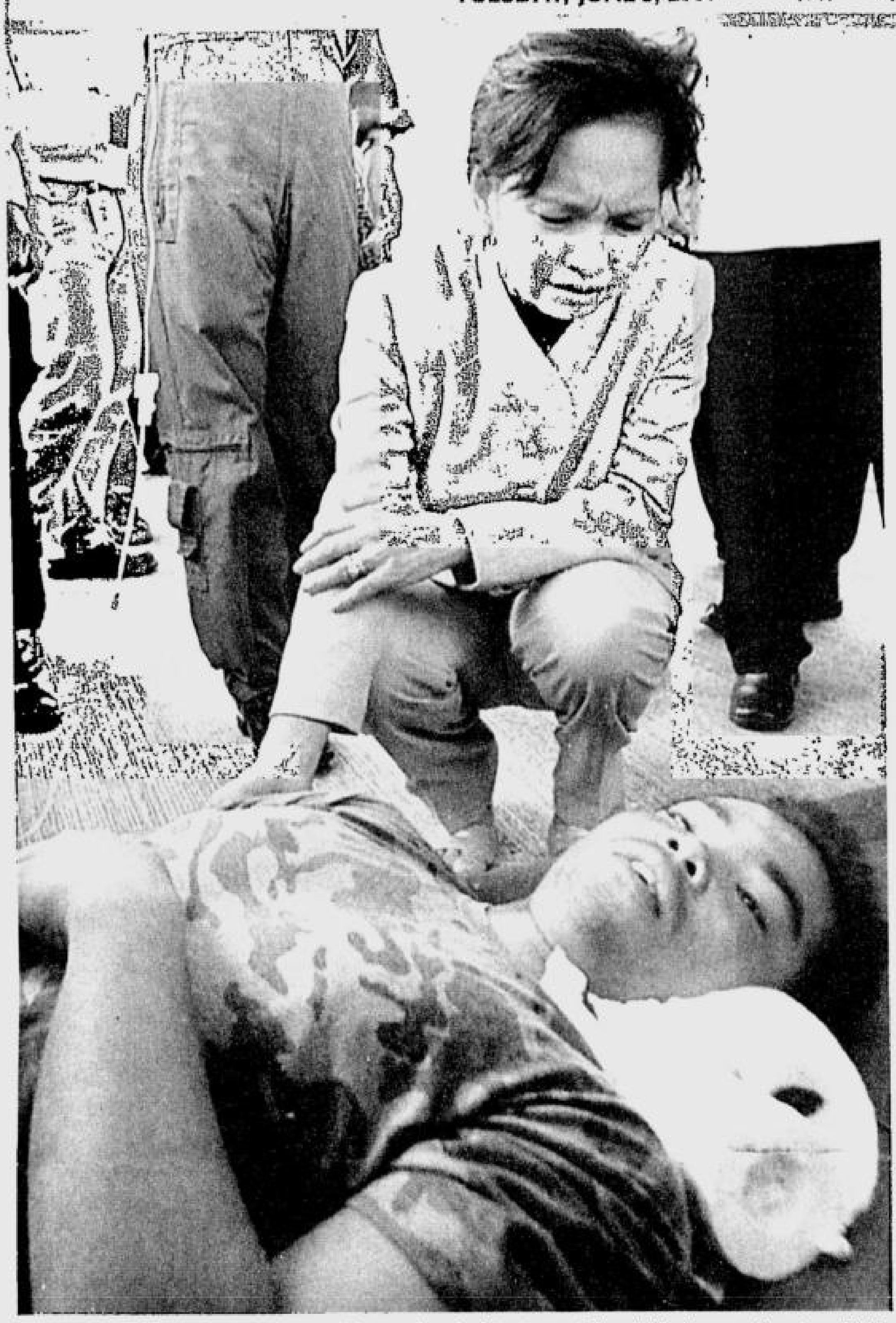
"Definitely if a state of emergency would be called, it would only be in Basilan. But right now, it's still being evaluated (to determine) if it's really necessary," Tiglao told a press conference.

Armed Forces spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan made the suggestion at a news conference held earlier in the day, although he did not directly propose that the government make such a declaration.

Instead, Adan told reporters that "we have no state of emergency or martial law with which it would be easier to deal with the problem."

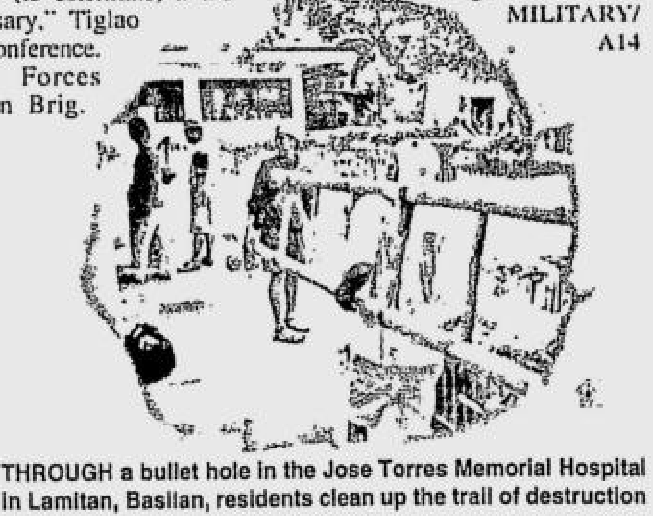
The officer said the military could use emergency powers not only to go after armed

MILITARY/ A14


A DISTRAUGHT President Macapagal-Arroyo breaks into tears at the sight of rescued hostage Eldrin Morales at Villamor Air Base on Sunday. VAL HANDUMON

REUTERS

DOOR of shame. Priest Rene Enriquez shows reporters the Lamitan hospital's back door.


THROUGH a bullet hole in the Jose Torres Memorial Hospital in Lamitan, Basilan, residents clean up the trail of destruction left by the Abu Sayyaf and military. DENNIS SABANGAN

Bandits, hostages vanish

BY JULIE ALIPALA-INOT, JONATHAN F. MA
PDI Mindanao Bureau
AND CARLITO PABLO

ZAMBOANGA CITY—After slipping through the military dragnet in Lamitan, Basilan, the Abu Sayyaf bandits and their hostages are believed heading to or already in either of two nearby towns—Sumisip or Tuburan.

Basilan Gov. Wahab Akbar thinks the group is bound for the Sampinit Complex in Sumisip, the original stronghold of the Abu Sayyaf.

It was in the complex that the bandit group brought and held about 30 hostages, mostly children, last year. "But they can only stay there for a week or two. Then they might go to other areas or cities where they can start their terrorism," Akbar said yesterday.

But Basilan Rep. Gerry Salapuddin, citing a report from an informant, told the INQUIRER that the bandits and their hostages had been

BANDITS/ A14

Abus rode slow boat to Basilan, say fishermen

BY GERALDFORD P. TICKE AND JOFELLE TESORIO
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Contrary to statements by the Armed Forces, no military cordon or blockade was put up to prevent the escape of the Abu Sayyaf bandits who abducted 20 guests and employees of the Dos Palmas resort here on May 27.

Julian Rayla, captain of the MB June II carrying 10 fishermen whom the bandits also took hostage in the course of fleeing government forces, made this allegation in a press conference late yesterday.

Rayla said the bandits intercepted them that Sunday near San Miguel Island in Cagayan de Sulu, about 20-30 miles north of Mapun Island in Tawi-Tawi.

He said the whole group sailed for Basilan late the next day and kept moving for two days and two nights.

All 10 fishermen, including Rayla, were released by their captors in the mountains of

ABUS/ A14

Arrested officer links Ping to Dacer slay

BY DAVE VERIDIANO, DONA PAZZIBUGAN AND ARMAND NOCUM

AN ARRESTED senior officer of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force has implicated former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson in the celebrated murder case of publicist Salvador "Bubby" Dacer, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez claimed yesterday.

"It appears that the former PNP director was the mastermind," Perez told reporters.

Lacson, a sure winner in the Senate race, issued a statement denying the allegation and accusing Malacañang of attempting to derail his expected proclamation today.

Perez told Camp Crame reporters that Supt. Glenn Dumlao, the most senior PAOCTF officer arrested so far in connection with Dacer's murder, named Lacson under initial interrogation yesterday.

Perez announced the supposed breakthrough in the investigation of the kidnapping and double-murder case of Dacer and his driver Emmanuel Corbito at a press conference held to present Dumlao to newsmen.

Dumlao, who was arrested yesterday morning, allegedly told interrogators that he was merely following orders when he participated in the abduction last Nov. 24, but Perez gave no details.

ARRESTED/ A4

EDWIN BACASMAS

DUMLAO: I was just following orders.

COMELEC

Unaudited as of 12 nn, June 4
101 out of 102 COCs (99.02%)

1	DE CASTRO	16,154,124
2	FLAVIER	11,657,981
3	OSMEÑA	11,528,723
4	DRILON	11,198,063
5	MAGSAYSAY	11,154,690
6	ARROYO	11,129,192
7	VILLAR	11,050,433
8	PANGILINAN	10,855,169
9	ANGARA	10,752,144
10	LACSON	10,580,409
11	EJERCITO	10,457,195
12	HONASAN	10,356,496
13	RECTO	10,335,142
14	ENRILE	9,604,984
15	SANTIAGO	9,566,738

'Magic 13' proclamation slated today

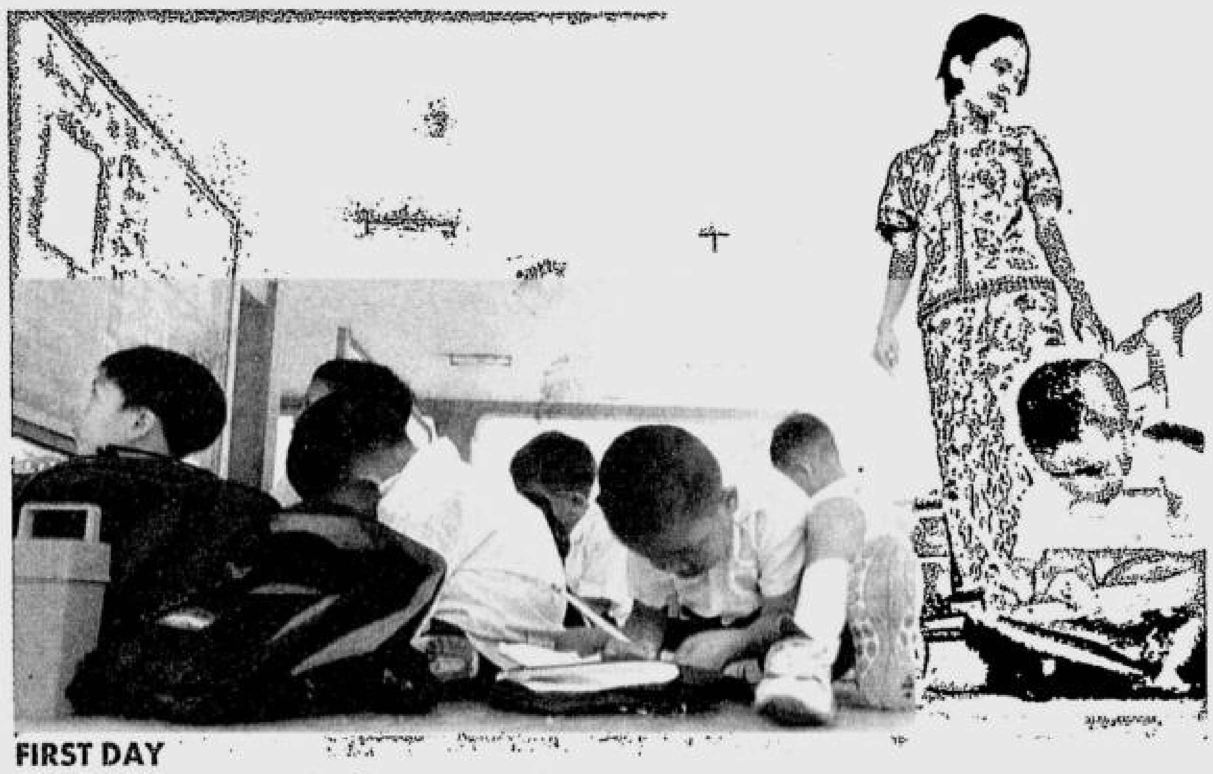
BY GERALD G. LACUARTA

WITH only 285,000 votes from Lanao del Norte still to be canvassed, the winning senators are set to be proclaimed at 2:30 p.m. today at the Westin Philippine Plaza in Pasay City although the Commission on Elections will not announce their standings in the Magic 13.

"The first 13 are well entrenched. There is no way they can be sidelined," Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo said.

A draft Comelec resolution said Ralph Recto rose yesterday to 12th place, dislodging reelectionist Gregorio Honasan, who slid to 13th place. But unofficial and unaudited Comelec tabulations showed that Recto was in 13th place and

MAGIC/ A4


FIRST DAY

No-frills education for Grade II students who started the school year at the Fairview Elementary School in Quezon City with a lack of desks and even classrooms. EDWIN BACASMAS

PDI starts 'New Paper' drive today

BY CELINE R. MADAMBA

IF YOU have old newspapers at home or in offices, you don't have to wait for the *magbobote* to sell them to.

Starting today, you can bring them to us and we'll pay P3 per kilo of your old broadsheets and tabloids. Or we can have them picked up from your place provided the paper pile reaches 200 kilos.

The Philippine Daily Inquirer is spearheading this newspaper recycling drive in Metro Manila in celebration of World Ecology Day today.

Companies, schools, foundations, parishes and individuals are invited to join.

PDI/ A15

STATE WITNESS, AH!

18M students back in school

By Blanche S. Rivera

SOME 18 million elementary and high school students trooped back to school yesterday amid the shortages that perennially plague the country's public schools.

But, "it was a pleasant surprise, it was not disorderly," gushed Education Secretary Raul Roco, as he made the rounds of Metro Manila schools to check on the progress of the first day of classes.

"The perception of confusion was to be expected. My assessment is that everything is under control and working under a certain routine or schedule," Roco said.

The only sore spot in the opening of classes appeared to be the suspension of two top education officials for allegedly failing to heed a recent department order banning the collection of fees in the public schools during enrollment.

Education directors Belen Magsino and Victorino Tirol of Regions IV and VI, respectively, were suspended by Roco for 15 days for their failure to ensure compliance by the schools in their districts with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports order.

Roco said that, ironically, the two had been among those pushing for the prohibition on soliciting "voluntary contributions" during the enrollment period in the public schools.

Two school principals, from the same regions, will also be meted suspensions for "deliberately refusing" to follow the DECS order, Roco said. He did not name the principals.

"Parents got the impression that the collections were a prerequisite for enrollment and when they could not pay, out of shame, they chose to not send their children to school. We cannot have that," Roco said.

"We want to implement free compulsory elementary education for children," he added.

Roco also received complaints from parents about the continued collection of fees when he made the rounds of schools in Pasay, Manila and Quezon cities yesterday.

At the Timoteo Paez Elementary School in Malibay, Pasay, parents said they had yet to receive refunds of the P400 that was collected from them during enrollment, before DECS Order No. 22 was issued.

At most schools, collections were initiated by the parent-teachers associations to pay the janitors and security guards, who should be paid out of the school budget.

"That is included in the budget. It should be shouldered by the school or the local government," Roco said, noting that in Makati the local government pays for the notebooks and other supplies of the public school students.

He urged the public schools to take a more active role in pushing for more local government participation in providing quality education for their students.

Erap lawyers want Chavit charged, too

By Volt Contreras

THE DEFENSE lawyers of Joseph Estrada are set to file this week a motion asking the Sandiganbayan to include "juetengate" whistleblower, outgoing Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, in the economic plunder charges against the ousted president.

A source in the Estrada camp said yesterday the motion to include Singson in the plunder case was already being drafted.

"Remember that during the impeachment trial he (Singson) admitted to several crimes and said that he was willing to go to jail provided he will share the cell with Estrada? Well, we will grant his wish," the source told the INQUIRER.

Singson is a state witness in the plunder case against Estrada, which would make him immune from prosecution.

He will testify on two "components" of the case: that Estrada collected monthly bribes from gambling operators and that he pocketed P130 million in kickbacks from Ilocos Sur's tobacco excise taxes

'Most guilty'

Estrada's lawyers will attempt to prove that Singson "does not meet the conditions" for a state witness, the source said.

"To be a state witness, one must not be the most guilty, and his testimony can be corroborated in its material points through other evidence," the source said.

Also yesterday, the Sandiganbayan's 1st division, chaired by Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena, disallowed the withdrawal of one of the graft cases filed against Estrada.

The case concerns the alleged P130-million kickbacks that Estrada allegedly collected from the tobacco excise taxes, which had been filed as a separate suit and simultaneously cited as one of the illegal acts in the plunder charge.

In a resolution penned by Garchitorena, the court maintained that the Office of the Ombudsman cannot just use "strategy" as a ground for withdrawing the case after it was filed along with seven others, including the one for plunder, on April 4.

Duty to prosecute

The court said the Ombudsman has the "duty" to prosecute whoever it may find criminally liable, and said it cannot just "call off the battle (just) for tactical reasons."

The court noted that based on the Ombudsman's own statements, the prosecution "believes that there is sufficient factual and legal bases to hold the accused liable" for that particular graft case.

By seeking to withdraw the case despite the claim of sufficient evidence, the prosecution would be reneging on its duty to prosecute all persons shown to be guilty of a crime, it said.

"An information may not be withdrawn merely because the prosecutors might think it more convenient or perhaps more expeditious to do so," Garchitorena wrote, quoting Supreme Court doctrine.

The court thus found invalid the reasons cited by the prosecution to justify the withdrawal.

Among these reasons was the prosecutors' fear that Estrada's lawyers might raise the issue of double jeopardy if their client were to be tried twice for the same offense, in the separate graft case and in the main case of plunder.

7 solons throw support behind Mark Jimenez

POWER attracts.

Now that he is a congressman-elect, controversial businessman Mark Jimenez has found new allies in his bid to avoid extradition to the United States.

In a press statement released by his camp, Jimenez said at least seven solons have thrown their support behind him, in the face of a US request for his extradition to face fraud, tax evasion and illegal campaign contribution charges, among others, in that country.

The statement listed the congressmen as former speaker Noli Fuentebella, Rolex Suplico, Federico Sandoval, Prospero Pichay, Rodolfo Albano Jr. and Joey Hizon.

Congressman-elect Willie Villarama of the second district of Bulacan also offered Jimenez his support. Villarama is the former president of The Manila Times which is owned by Jimenez.

The congressmen belong to the four major political parties in the House—Lakas-NUCD, Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, Liberal Party and Nationalist People's Coalition—and one party-list group, while Jimenez ran as an independent.

"Any talk of a warrant of arrest for Mr. Jimenez, who is not even accused of any crime in this country, is unfair not only to him but also to his constituency," Fuentebella said.

Sandoval pointed out that the issue of extraditing Jimenez to the US "is no longer a personal one but a matter that could affect Congress as an institution."

"While we cannot extradite back to our country American soldiers who committed serious crimes, why should we let them get back a Filipino congressman?" Sandoval asked.

JIMENEZ

Pichay charged that the Department of Justice had been too harsh in handling the Jimenez case.

"The DOJ should be more prudent and observe due process diligently because (Jimenez) is now a congressman who has a mandate," Pichay said.

Villarama said the DOJ's plan of action "violates the principle of the primacy of municipal law over international law."

In the statement, the congressmen said the arrest of Jimenez "will effectively disenfranchise his constituents in Manila's sixth district numbering over 600,000 residents."

They also expressed the hope that "the issue of the arrest of Jimenez, or any other member of Congress for that matter, will be resolved in compliance with the Bill of Rights of the Constitution and the constitutionally guaranteed rights to due process and equal protection."

Dengue alert up

By Norman Bordadora

ALERT levels are again up on dengue fever.

The health department yesterday advised the public to take precautions against the deadly *Aedes egypti* mosquito, noting that dengue incidence has risen almost 70 percent this year.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said tin cans, bottles, other containers and tires should be properly disposed of so that these do not become artificial breeding places for the mosquito.

"A total of 681 cases was reported from Jan. 1 to May 26, including five deaths," Dayrit said. "This figure is 63 percent higher compared to the same period last year."

The ages of the victims ranged from two months to 66 years.

Majority of the cases involved the 10-to-19-year age bracket.

Dayrit said health authorities expect dengue cases to go up this year, more than the previous two years, as the disease has a three-year cycle of increased transmission.

Dengue cases reached an all-time high in 1998.

Dengue outbreaks are common in densely populated areas, with Manila having the highest incidence at 30 percent, followed by Caloocan City and Quezon City.

Dengue fever, the most significant mosquito-borne viral disease affecting humans, is transmitted by a bite of an infected day-biting female *Aedes egypti* that breeds in clean, stagnant water.

The disease begins with a sudden onset of high fever and a headache, accompanied by anorexia, vomiting and abdominal pain.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever occurs when the blood-clotting function of the body becomes affected. It comes with rashes, nose bleed, gum bleeding and other forms of internal bleeding.

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DATE: June 19, 2001, Tuesday
TIME: 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
PLACE: PRC Examiners' Lounge
3rd Floor, PRC Building
P. Paredes St., Sampaloc, Manila

For confirmation, please call Ester Rodriguez at tel. nos. 891-0307 loc. 8602, 894-8146, or Ms. Shirley Eden at 314-008.

(Sgd.)
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Gloria at work, cancels socials

By Juliet L. Javellana

ALL WAS quiet in Malacañang yesterday in contrast to the riotous weekend in Basilan where the Abu Sayyaf was able to breach a government cordon after killing two of their Palawan hostages and taking fresh captives.

President Macapagal-Arroyo canceled her regular staff meeting and shied away from ceremonial and public engagements in what was billed as "President's time."

The President spent the day talking with military commanders about developments in the government's effort to rescue the Abu Sayyaf's hostages and finally wipe out the bandit group.

"She decided to keep her schedule (clean), no ceremonial and social functions . . . so she could concentrate on this problem," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao told reporters at a 3 p.m. briefing.

"She is consulting with many people to solve this problem. She's in touch with the military commanders to get a feel of what's happening," Tiglao said.

Besides the Abu Sayyaf problem, Tiglao said the President freed her schedule for two other important events yesterday—the ratification of the Omnibus Power Reform Bill at the Senate and the completion of the canvassing of votes for the senatorial elections by the Commission on Elections.

"The power reform bill is very important to this nation so she's keeping herself free for any last minute questions by the senators," Tiglao said.

"She's also making herself available for any problems that may arise in the canvassing of ballots. She's ready to respond in case there are problems," Tiglao said.

The President is particularly interested in the fate of People Power Coalition candidate Ralph Recto who continues to hold on to the 13th and final senatorial slot as the Comelec count draws to a close, Tiglao said.

He said the President had met with leaders of the six political parties comprising the PPC to ask them to make sure Recto's votes were credited to him.

Control of the Senate and the House of Representatives is deemed to be crucial for the four-month-old Macapagal administration, which is beset by numerous problems, not the least of which is what to do with ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Tiglao did not say what engagements the President canceled to give way to the three things that needed her attention.

"Even the staff meeting was canceled because the President wanted to free her schedule," Tiglao said.

MAMAMAYAN MUNA
HINDI MAMAYA NA!

Palace denies attempt to muzzle radio station

By Martin P. Marfil

MALACANANG yesterday said sending a Palace official to a radio station in Mindanao that had aired an interview with the Abu Sayyaf was not meant to put pressure on the station.

Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Press Undersecretary Cerge Remonde had been sent to Mindanao to ensure that the press there had someone to talk to and seek advice from in view of the news blackout that Malacañang had imposed on military operations against the extremists.

Three days ago, Remonde, with three officials from the National Telecommunications Commission, had called on executives of the Radio Mindanao Network's Radyo Agong in a move that is being viewed by some observers as a threat.

"He(Remonde) was there to make sure that there's somebody of ranking stature whom the press could talk to... to seek advice and help," Tiglao said.

Tiglao said that Remonde had explained that the NTC officials had heard that he was in the city and had joined him for breakfast in a hotel.

Remonde then brought the NTC officials to the Radyo Agong office.

"(They went there) but in no way (did they) threaten to cut their franchise," Tiglao said.

"Obviously this administration won't go to such levels to stop a radio network from operating," he added..

Tiglao said the Palace appeal for a news blackout continues and media are being asked not to give airtime to the Abu Sayyaf, no background information on the hostages and no details on the military operation in Basilan.

It was on RMN that spokesperson Abu Sayyaf first confirmed that the extremists had carried out the hostage-taking in the Dos Palmas beach resort in Palawan.

In a subsequent interview, Sabaya made one of the hostages air an appeal asking for a halt to the military operations.

Promdi makes it

CLOSE to 300,000 Cebuano votes propelled Abag Promdi Party of former Cebu Gov. Lito Osmeña to the winning circle in the ongoing party-list canvass of the Commission on Elections. Promdi thus joins nine other party-list groups who have so far met the two-percent minimum vote requirement to win seats in the House of Representatives.

Latest figures obtained by the INQUIRER showed that Promdi has garnered 371,154 votes representing 2.61 percent of the total 14,191,334 votes cast in the party-list elections canvassed as of Friday, not yet including the results from Maguindanao which came in yesterday.

Promdi was in 62th place in the latest official Comelec update as of May 29, when it only had 9,749 votes representing 0.2 percent of the 8,346,292 party-list votes counted at that time.

Promdi made the big jump to May 30 when the Cebu votes came in. It got 210,000 votes in Cebu province and 79,000 votes in Cebu City, both bailiwicks of the Osmeña family and base of the Promdi. The rest of its votes come from other cities and provinces.

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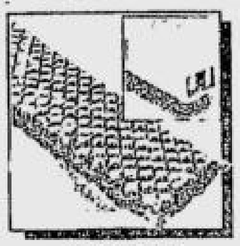

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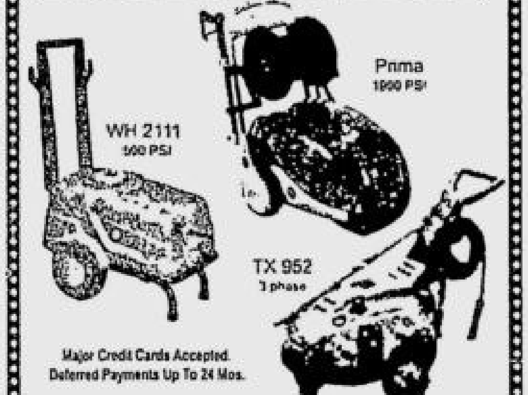

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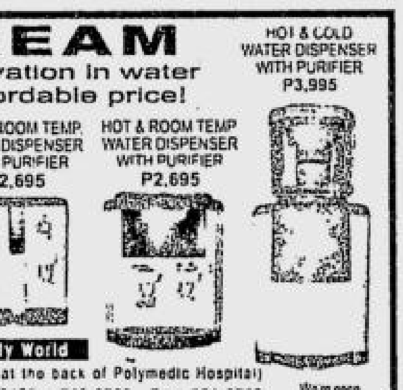
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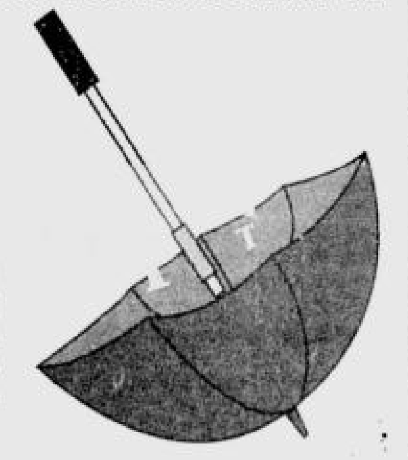

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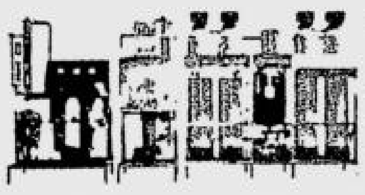

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Safety nets for 'open skies' policy urged

SAFETY nets should be put in place before the country adopts an "open skies" policy in civil aviation, Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin warned yesterday.

At a breakfast forum in Manila, Ebdalin said the proper groundwork should be established before going full blast on plans to open air access to foreign carriers.

"It would be best for the Philippines to adopt a gradual liberalization plan," Ebdalin said. "Based on our experience so far, it is the foreign carriers that are hesitant to invest here. They are having second thoughts on whether opening (more) routes here is really cost effective for them."

The observation was echoed by Robert Lim Joseph, president of the Network of Independent Travel Agencies, one of the major travel industry associations.

Joseph said the government should consider setting up the needed infrastructure that would complement the expected changes such as the use of wide-body aircraft and the additional influx of tourists.

"Presently, our airports can hardly handle the arrival of long-haul aircraft. Our radar system used in aiding aircraft landings is obsolete. Our airports are cramped. We have to do something about this first," Joseph said.

While acknowledging that a properly paced liberalization of the air transport industry would boost Philippine tourism, Ebdalin noted that there are other factors that need to be considered, such as the assurance of reciprocal air access rights with other countries.

"Air access is not the only solution in increasing tourist arrivals. There are a lot of things to consider. We have to get the same rights we give to other nations. The government and the private sector, especially those involved in the airline and tourism business, should work hand in hand towards this goal," he said.

NORTHERN ARRIVALS: Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon witnesses the arrival of tourists at the Laoag International Airport.

Davao getting back on its feet–Gordon

DAVAO is getting back on its feet.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon made this optimistic statement last weekend, two weeks after the attack on the Pearl Farm Beach Resort on nearby Samal Island.

Speaking before members of the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) and Manila-based and local media, Gordon said business- tourism-related developments are taking shape in Davao.

The pronouncement came only one day after he announced in Laoag City that all is not lost for the country's tourism industry. He welcomed hundreds of tourists in Laoag with the inauguration of twice-weekly flights of Air Macau to the Laoag International Airport.

"Businesses are coming in, barely two weeks after a surprise attack by a small group of bandits here in Samal Island," Gordon said. "In fact, two days after the incident, hotels and resorts here enjoyed a 70 percent occupancy rate," Gordon said.

Gordon dismissed the incident as an "isolated case." Just the same, he said Samal Mayor Roger Antalan and the Davao police headed by Police Supt. Edward Matillan have beefed up security in the area.

"The additional security is not really necessary but the deployment of police is only to assure tourists that their safety is highly prioritized," Gordon said.

He downplayed recent events, including an all-out offensive by the military against Abu Sayyaf, saying the bandit group has been "reduced to a pariah after the President declared a no-ransom, no-media coverage, all-out offensive against them."

Gordon said tourism is volatile in any part of the world but what is important is the fact that "tourism is able to adjust and come back after any adversity."

"This is where tourism promotion comes in," Gordon said stressing his call for a more aggressive international promotional campaign to counter negative impressions brought about by selective news reporting by media.

Gordon is requesting for a higher budget—$15 million from $660,000 last year—to keep up with huge promotional budgets spent by neighboring countries such a Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

Once the budget is approved, Gordon "promised more businesses, livelihood opportunities, and higher income for the government."

He echoed President Macapagal-Arroyo's remark that "tourism will get us back (to recovery)," adding that more promotions abroad would translate to more arrival of tourists and "more economic opportunities for Filipinos."

By yearend, given full financial support by the government, Gordon expects more than three million tourists, almost double last year's 1.8 million.

Arrested officer links Lacson to Dacer slay

(From page 1)

But Dumlao's lawyer, Rogelio Agoot, said that his client had implicated only Senior Superintendents Michael Ray Aquino and Cesar Mancao, Lacson's most trusted aides.

In a radio interview, National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Reynaldo Wycoco said that Dumlao had not executed a formal affidavit naming Lacson.

PNP-Intelligence Group chief Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya told reporters after the press briefing that Dumlao had tagged Lacson, but refused to say whether he had done so in a sworn statement.

Dumlao allegedly confessed that he was the officer who "interrogated" Dacer behind a Metrobank branch in Cavite shortly after the publicist and his driver were abducted along Quirino Highway in Manila.

On way to Baguio

Perez said that Dumlao's arrest was a breakthrough in the six-month-old case that could help authorities finally determine the elusive masterminds.

But "it's not yet over until we find out who the masterminds are. We will ask for the cooperation of Dumlao on this matter," Perez added.

Dumlao was nabbed by agents of the Intelligence Group and the Southern Police District (SPD) at the Victory Liner bus terminal in Pasay City around 8:30 a.m. yesterday.

Perez said Dumlao was on his way to Baguio City when he was arrested.

Perez, PNP Chief Director General Leandro Mendoza, Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr., Berroya and Wycoco presented Dumlao to mediamen in Camp Crame.

Lacson denial

In his statement, Lacson, who refused to answer the INQUIRER's phone calls, accused Perez of trying to frustrate his senatorial bid, and his longtime nemesis, Berroya, of making up the allegations.

"Now that it is clear that I am among the winning candidates, Mr. Perez, who is obviously under orders from Malacañang, is trying to deny me of my seat in the Senate by implicating me in the Dacer case," Lacson said.

"I have reliable information that the PNP-Intelligence Group under Col. Reynaldo Berroya has prepared an affidavit to be signed by Supt. Glenn Dumlao, who is under their custody," he also said.

He further charged that Perez, whose appointment has yet to be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments, was trying to blackmail him into approving the confirmation.

"Mr. Perez, who is the brains behind Malacañang's declaration of 'state of rebellion' and the subsequent warrantless arrests of opposition senatorial bets, must be anticipating rough sailing in the Commission on Appointments," Lacson said.

"This could be the reason why this early, he wants to secure a bargaining chip against those he perceives as hostile to his confirmation," the former police chief said.

Traditionally, however, only senior members of the Senate and the House of Representatives can get seats in the powerful CA.

Lacson, reelectionists Senators Gregorio Honasan, Juan Ponce Enrile and Miriam Defensor-Santiago and former Ambassador Ernesto Maceda were ordered arrested May 1 for allegedly inciting the Estrada loyalists to attack Malacañang.

Proclamation

Perez said Lacson's being linked to the Dacer case would not affect his expected proclamation as a winner in the Senate race.

But Wycoco said the NBI would not hesitate to arrest any personalities implicated in the controversial case as long as a court issued a warrant of arrest.

Sen. Renato Cayetano said Lacson could not count on immunity from arrest should there be strong evidence that he ordered the killing of Dacer and his driver.

But other senators said that the unproven allegations were not enough reason to defer his proclamation as senator.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and colleagues Franklin Drilon and Juan Flavier, all pro-administration senators, said Lacson should be proclaimed as scheduled and allowed to defend himself against the charges later.

Cayetano said that "regardless of a proclamation, if there is an arrest warrant, he will be arrested."

Pimentel noted that "if the evidence is very strong" in a murder case, "there may be not be bail."

The Senate is scheduled to resume session on July 23.

In the meantime, authorities continue to hunt several other police officers, mostly former PAOCTF members. They are Chief Insp. Vicente Arnado, SPO4 Benjamin Taladua, SPO1 Rolando Lacasandile, Insp. Danilo Villanueva, SPO1s Mario Sarmiento, William Reed and PO2 Thomas Sarmiento.

So far, the authorities have arrested civilians Jimmy and William Lopez and Alex Diloy, SPO2 Marino Soberano, SPO3 Mauro Torres, SPO3 Jose Escalante, Insp. Roberto Lancauan, SPO1 Rupernot Nemeno, Crisostomo Purificacion, Digo de Pedro, Ranato Malabanan, Margarito Cuenco and Rommel Rollan.

'Magic 13' proclaimed today

(From page 1)

Honasan in 12th.

Based on the official count of 101 out of 102 certificates of canvass, it is still 8-4-1 in favor of the administration's People Power Coalition.

The top 12 senators shall serve six-year terms, while the 13th shall serve only for three years to complete the unfinished term of former senator and now Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Only 200 guests, including Comelec staff and media people, shall be allowed to witness the proclamation.

Each winning senator shall be allowed to invite five guests each, including family members.

"At the proclamation we will simply state the winners and that they got so and so votes as of today (June 4)," Benipayo said.

Benipayo, head of the National Board of Canvassers, said the NBC had decided to proclaim the 13 new senators today because the remaining votes from Lanao del Sur would not be enough to change the composition of the Magic 13.

He said the final standings of the senators would be determined after the votes from Lanao del Sur had been canvassed.

The province has 294,730 registered voters but some 285,000 actually voted, according to Commissioner Rex Borra.

"The standings will still be altered later this week," Benipayo said. "Anyway their term will begin on the first of July still."

The winners are independent Noli de Castro; reelectionists Juan Flavier, Sergio Osmeña III, Franklin Drilon and Ramon Magsaysay Jr.; and Representatives Joker Arroyo, Manuel Villar, Jr. and Recto—all of the PPC.

Also in the winning circle are Edgardo Angara, former police chief Panfilo Lacson, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, and Honasan—all of the Puwersa ng Masa.

Based on the unaudited Comelec canvass of the 101 COCs, Honasan was in 12th place with 10,356,496 votes while Recto was 13th with 10,335,142 votes.

The NBC is expected today to issue a resolution reporting the official audited results of the canvassing of 101 COCs.

A copy of the still unsigned resolution leaked out by a Comelec official showed Recto in 12th place with 10,387,108 votes and Honasan in 13th position with 10,364,272 votes.

It was learned that the discrepancy came about due to the canvassing of contested COCs from Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and other municipalities during a closed-door conference of the NBC in the afternoon.

The COC from Sultan Kudarat was not included in the canvassing of the provincial COC yesterday morning because PnM lawyers had questioned the alleged padding of Recto's votes in the town. Recto was No. 1 in the town with 34,037 votes.

9-3-1 for PPC in Maguindanao

It was 9-3-1 for the PPC in Maguindanao, supposedly a bailiwick of the PnM. Two Muslim candidates, Santanina Rasul of the PnM and Moner Bajunaid—a leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front—topped the polls in the province.

Recto has a lead of 730,158 votes over 14th placer Juan Ponce Enrile of the PnM based on the unaudited Comelec tabulation of 101 COCs.

"Between the 13th and 14th there's a difference of about 700,000 votes but the votes from Lanao del Sur and Maguindanao being questioned are not enough for the 14th to overtake the 13th," Benipayo said.

But lawyers from the PnM questioned the NBC decision to proclaim the winners this early.

Former Immigration Commissioner Rufus Rodriguez, counsel for Ejercito, said the NBC should first resolve the motion he filed questioning the alleged tampering of COCs in favor of Recto and other PPC bets in eight towns in Maguindanao and one in Lanao del Norte.

"We are therefore asking that these be resolved before we have the proclamation," Rodriguez said.

Rodriguez conceded that it was now "statistically impossible" for Enrile to enter the Magic 13. But the lawyer said the NBC should investigate the alleged padding of Recto's votes in Maguindanao by 70,000 and Lanao del Norte by 15,000 before proclaiming any winner.

"It would certainly affect Honasan's lead of about 66,000 votes (based on PnM count) as No. 12," Rodriguez said.

"If we allow the proclamation of the senators today, and the padded votes of Recto are included, this would give the impression that he is No. 12," Rodriguez said.

He said the PnM could go to the Supreme Court to block the proclamation.

Rodriguez said delaying the proclamation would also give detained former President Joseph Estrada the time to file a motion with the Sandiganbayan requesting that he be allowed to attend the proclamation of his wife Ejercito.

Even Recto's lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, was opposed to today's proclamation.

He said a proclamation would be "very premature" because the NBC had yet to issue the resolution stating the official and audited canvass of the 101 COCs.

"We cannot say that Recto is No. 13 because the Lanao del Sur results will still be canvassed," Macalintal said. "In the case of Recto and Honasan, the votes from Lanao would affect the results of the elections."

"There is still auditing of the COC of Maguindanao," he added. "I just don't want them to have the impression that the canvassing is finished."

Former Comelec Commissioner Manolo Gorospe, a counsel for the PPC, said Recto could still overtake Honasan after the Lanao del Sur COC had been canvassed.

"We're trying to strive to increase the standing of Recto from 13th to 12th because the difference between the two is only 65,000 votes," Gorospe said.

Borra said the canvassing in Lanao del Sur had not even started due to rising political tension in the province.

He said the NBC was preparing a resolution to transfer the canvassing to the Comelec main office in Manila because the poll body's lease contract with the Philippine International Convention Center expired yesterday.

Borra said that in the 1998 elections the Comelec excluded 27 municipalities in Lanao del Sur in the canvassing because their COCs had been tampered with.

Commissioner Mehol Sadain said the canvassing of the results in Lanao del Sur would be moved to Manila to protect the lives of Comelec lawyers and personnel involved in the canvass.

"There had been many strafing and threats," he said.

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Wanted: Losers

EDITORIAL

THIS week, the Commission on Elections will finally proclaim the 13 winners in the race for the Senate—three full weeks after the May 14 elections. Contrast that sorry record with the parliamentary elections in Italy, which were held on the same day. The following day, May 15, the new prime minister was already starting to form his new government. The instructive difference tells us this much: the recent polls may have been our first for the 21st century, but our method of counting the votes remains stuck in the 19th.

One reason why we are still living in the past is the Filipino tradition of not losing. This cultural idiosyncrasy may be summed up simply: Filipinos never lose. If we survey Filipinos, of all stripes, who have ever run for office, whether for Congress or simply for a position in the neighborhood association, we will reach the inescapable conclusion. Filipinos never lose; if they didn't win, it's only because they had been cheated of victory.

There is a necessary naivete in every serious candidate, a willingness to believe in victory, that makes elections possible in the first place. Set aside the Don Quixotes who run for the sheer pleasure of tilting with windmills, and you have tens of thousands of candidates who actually believe in their chances of winning. This is, let us be clear, not a bad thing.

Indeed, if we want the central democratic franchise to become relevant to the poor who number in the millions, we must encourage this attitude that candidates have or deserve an equal shot at winning. This will entice Filipinos who don't belong to the traditional political sectors—that is, those groups where most politicians come from—to try running for office themselves.

But the reality is, when it comes to the ballot box, politics is a zero-sum game. For one candidate to win, others need to lose.

Thus, the idea of a fair chance of winning has an important corollary. Candidates must realize they have a fair chance of losing, too. And this, again, is not a bad thing.

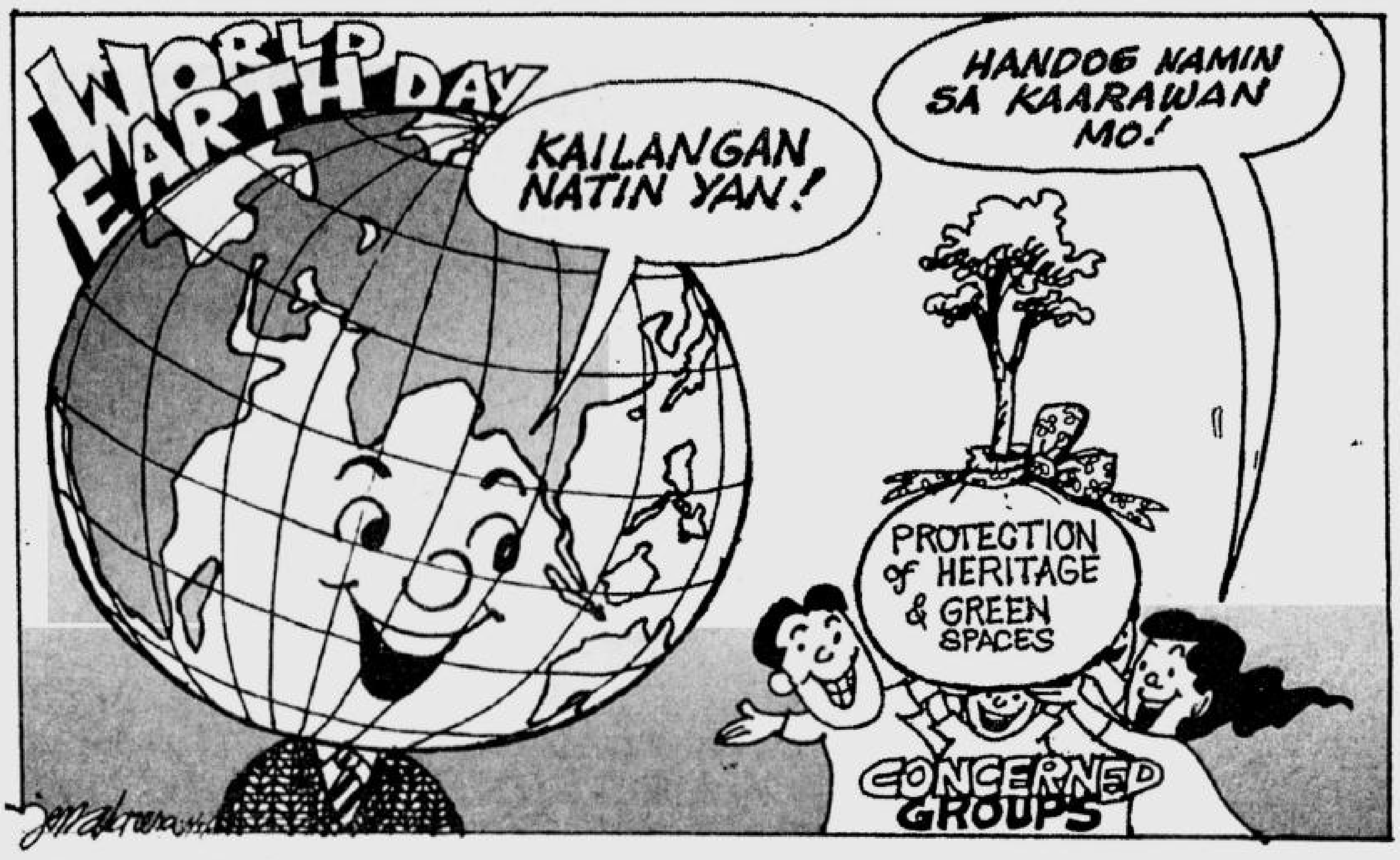
It is no exaggeration to say that, in a representative democracy, elections are premised on the inevitability of defeat. Candidates for public office must believe they can win; at the same time, and even more important, they must be prepared to accept defeat. Otherwise, the regular calendar of elections will cease to function as a source of political stability and maturity; rather, it will be a wellspring of political uncertainty.

Viewed in this light, the contention of Puwersa ng Masa spokesmen that their candidates would win if they were not being cheated by the People Power Coalition is not only an attack on logic but also an assault on the bedrock basis of democratic elections. Logically, this contention is based on the classic fallacy called "begging the question." It assumes the truth of something that must still be proven; in other words, it employs circular reasoning. How do they know that the only way they will lose is through cheating? Instead of validating this assumption, however, they simply take it as a fact.

Politically, this argument that they will never lose if the counting is honest undermines all elections, not only this messy, most recent one. A candidate who does not entertain the possibility of defeat is either running in a totalitarian state or in a make-believe campaign.

They may have taken their cue from Henry Kissinger, the prophet of realpolitik. "Show me a good loser and I'll show you a loser," Kissinger was famously supposed to have said. This kind of tough talk from the former US secretary of state, however, actually reflects his own limitations. Not having ran for any elective office whatsoever, the consummate appointee does not understand that losing candidates, lots of them, are needed to balance the election equation.

The PnM spokesmen should heed their sometime guest candidate, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado. Even though he has landed in the first 20, Mercado has accepted the prospect of defeat with a welcome equanimity. For him, as for millions of voters, life moves on. For the sake of our elections, there should be more like him.


WORLD EARTH DAY
KAILANGAN NATIN YAN!
HANDOG NAMIN SA KAARAWAN MO!
PROTECTION of HERITAGE & GREEN SPACES
CONCERNED GROUPS

Mayor Atienza, please preserve Manila's green spaces

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TODAY is World Environment Day and the city government of Manila will celebrate it by wiping off the face of the earth another green space by burying it under tons of concrete. Mayor Lito Atienza has just given the death sentence to Mehan Gardens, a historically and culturally significant site in front of City Hall behind the Metropolitan Theater, and site of the Katipunan sculpture. The mayor has designated it to be the site of the City Colleges of Manila.

Mehan Gardens is the site of the historic Parian Gate of Old Manila inside the walls of Intramuros and the former Jardin Botanico of the Spanish colonial period. It was a popular park before the war, complementing Plaza Lawton with its trees and lawns. Together, they served as the lungs of Binondo, Sta. Cruz and Quiapo. People from these crowded districts went there for fresh air and sunshine. Even people outside Manila went there just to see Mehan Gardens.

The trees and grass of Plaza Lawton, of course, are already gone, buried under concrete flyovers. Part of Mehan Gardens has already been converted into a station of the Light Rail Transit. Now Atienza will finish the job by converting what is left of Mehan Gardens into the campus of the City Colleges of Manila. Perhaps the mayor is not aware that the site is also an archeological site, declared as such by the National Museum.

What is surprising is why the mayor is putting up another city college when it already has two: Pamantasan ng Maynila and the more recent city college in the former building of the Philippine National Bank on the Escolta. One reason could be that the college on Escolta was established by then Mayor Alfredo Lim, Atienza's former boss and now bitter rival. Like the archbishops of old who must have churches built to remember them by, Atienza must have a college built by him for Manilans to remember him by. Lim has one but Atienza has none? Unthinkable!

Besides, why will the city government spend more money for a new college when it can't even give the college on Escolta more funds to improve it and pay the teachers on time. The president of the college, columnist Art Borjal, resigned because it is dilapidated, has scarce supplies and doesn't have enough funds to pay the teachers. The mayor should visit it so he would see the sorry state it is in. But perhaps he cannot bear to set foot on a school established by his rival.

If the mayor wants to give the people of Manila more schools, well and good—but not at Mehan Gardens. The place is not conducive to learning. The students will not learn anything there. It is surrounded on all four sides by the noise and pollution of heavy traffic, not only on ground level but also aboveground. What the place needs is more trees, plants and grass to deaden the noise and cleanse the polluted air. Together with the nearby Arroceros Forest Park (which, by the way, was developed not by the city government but by the Manila Seedling Bank with funds from a civic organization), it would be a sanctuary from the hurly-burly of city life.

If the mayor really wants to help the students of his city, he should choose a site for his college that is more conducive to learning, with plenty of space and greenery. It is bad enough that the schools in Manila's University Belt are crowded in one of the seediest parts of Manila. Now the mayor will build another school in another crowded place.

Wouldn't it be better to site the new school in a place far from other schools to provide the residents of that place access to their school. Mehan Gardens is within a stone's throw of Pamantasan ng Maynila, the city college on Escolta, and Letran and Lyceum. You don't need another college so near. Especially one that will wipe out one of the last open spaces in Manila.

It is perplexing why Atienza, who used to be a cultural dancer of the Bayanihan, has no feeling at all for culture. He mercilessly tore down the old Jai Alai Building on Taft whose architecture cultured and history-loving Filipinos wanted to preserve. Manila's justice building is being constructed in its place but his architects could at least have preserved its distinct façade as was done for the Manila Hotel by a better architect.

The old Metropolitan Theater, another cultural and historic landmark at the foot of three bridges across the Pasig, has to be revived so that it will not deteriorate further. Atienza's constituents need a theater that caters to their own cultural tastes and the Metropolitan Theater is there to provide it. The Cultural Center is too high-brow, too expensive and too far for Manila's masses. They have to dress up and ride in cars to get there.

The Metropolitan Theater, on the other hand, is astride arteries for mass transportation. Instead of ballets, operas, concerts and Shakespearean plays, it can present stage shows, variety musicals and soap operas, the stuff that the Manila Grand Opera House and other Manila movie-less movie houses presented during the war and are still popular today on television and cinema. I think Atienza will gain more votes from his constituents with the Metropolitan Theater than with a city college in Mehan Gardens.

The good mayor once said that his city is decaying and needs urban renewal. He is correct there and one of the big causes of its impending death are the elevated light rail transits that will crisscross the city. They have already caused the death, and will cause the death, of the streets under them. Rizal and Taft Avenues are dead; Recto, Sta. Mesa and Aurora boulevards will follow them.

But the way to preserve the city and renew urban decay is not to tear down old buildings and replace green spaces with new concrete. The correct way is to preserve them. This is now the rage in the United States and other countries. Old towns are being preserved and refurbished and are now popular tourist spots. Europe is a good place to visit because of its old cities.

Mayor Atienza has visited many foreign places. If he only visits the right places, instead of only the big commercial cities, he would see what I mean.

Lesson in civics

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

LAST week, Education Secretary Raul Roco issued a plea to private schools to institute a carpooling system. The students of those schools, he said, would do well to ride in common vehicles rather than individually in their own cars. They can take turns using their cars in the car pool. That way, they might help ease traffic when school opens—which was yesterday for most schools.

The biggest cause of traffic jams, Roco said, wasn't jeepneys and buses but private cars. Unless everyone pitched in to solve that problem, we would all be in for a nightmarish first day of school.

It's good observation and good advice. True enough, the culprit in traffic jams isn't jeepneys and buses, however their drivers often seem better locked up in Mandaluyong than allowed to menace peaceable commuters and pedestrians. For all their maniacal drivers, jeepneys and buses at least ferry dozens and scores of people at a time. Private cars carry one or two people at a time. Which is another one of those ironic twists that make you wonder where the true madness lies. There are limits to improving traffic by instilling discipline among drivers—though I grant those limits are far from being reached in Metro Manila. The way private cars are tumbling out into the streets in bigger volumes each month, we are truly in for a nightmare, and it won't be just on the first day of school.

A car pool is good advice. And one that carries a good lesson along with it. I remember in this respect a teacher in college who lamented the loss of civility in our generation, which he attributed in part to "Civics" no longer being taught as a subject in our time. During his time, he said, it was taught and people took it to heart. Well, maybe it wouldn't hurt to teach civics as a subject again—heaven knows the youth of today can do with Old World gentility amid their New World philistinism. But I don't know that the subject can't be taught in some other way. A car pool is one such way.

Seemingly a small and even trivial idea, it goes some way in imparting the right values. It is voluntary, which the "color coding" rule keeping different cars out of the streets one day of the week, is not. And it touches on one particularly horrible value the rich and middle class harbor in this country, which is the notion that property is absolute. You can do whatever you want with it, without need to exercise responsibility. That extends to everything from land to cars. You can let land go untilled since it's yours anyway, you can use your car any which way you please since it's yours anyway. It's a spoiled-brat concept of property we have, and it's time we got weaned from it. With property comes responsibility; with much property comes much responsibility.

That is so particularly where your exercise of your right to property directly affects the rights of others. That is so in the case of a private car. Your use of that car occupies space other people can use at that very time. Over time, I myself have gotten acutely aware of this, and though I still get mightily pissed off every time a jeepney cuts me off or stops in the middle of the road to let off passengers, I am somehow able to manage to refrain from blowing my horn fiercely at the offending driver. It of course does not excuse the driver from acting that way, and I would applaud it if a traffic cop were to accost him (which none of them seems to do). But it does jolt you into having a sense of proportion when you realize that you are just a few persons in one big space enjoying the benefits of air-conditioning while a couple of dozen other people (they pack 'em in jeeps) are in pretty much the same amount of space sweating it out in the sweltering heat.

A car pool should help introduce the kids to realizations or appreciations of this nature. Owning a car is not a natural claim to flaunting it, or to driving home to the rest of the world life's inequalities. Private schools truly would do well to encourage carpooling, as indeed would private offices in Makati and elsewhere.

The best lessons do not have to be taught inside the classroom, and the best lessons in civics do not have to be taught in a subject called "Civics." Indeed, the best lessons in life do not have to carry huge signs that proclaim them to be so. The biggest things in life, as they say, come in small packages.

This one does.

* * *

Lidy-Nacpil, secretary-general of the Freedom from Debt Coalition, writes:

"We would like to clarify a statement you made in your May 28 column. You mentioned that the oppositors of the Omnibus Power Bill, Bayan Muna and FDC, were 'among the angriest protesters against 'Edsa III,' calling for vigorous counterdemonstrations against it."

"May we reiterate portions of our statement on Edsa III:

'It cannot be denied. Although many of the rallyists gathered at Edsa for the past five days have been organized to show support for the fallen president, many are also there to express a legitimate gripe: the misery and poverty that have hounded the poor far too long.'

'To easily dismiss the sentiments of the poor is to trample on their right to a decent life. To belittle the Edsa gathering and to condemn all the protesters is to insult our much-cherished freedom of expression and assembly.'"

"We would also like to point out that we were completely disappointed to hear our colleagues from the other militant and cause-oriented groups castigating the masses gathered at Edsa. We were dismayed to hear some of them even alleging that the gathering was illegal because the demonstrators had no permit. We found it ironic that this statement must come from those who usually do not bother to secure permits for their rallies because, like we do, they see it as an assertion of the people's right to assembly. We were disgusted at their self-righteous and elitist claim of 'ownership' over their sacred Edsa Shrine. And many of us could not bring ourselves to be at Mendiola to 'defend' Malacañang against the onslaught of pro-Erap supporters because we did not see this as the only way to continue the struggles that moved us to be co-writers of Edsa III."

My humblest apologies. I stand corrected.

Exterminate Abu Sayyaf or it will wreak havoc again

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THREE days ago, President Macapagal mentioned on TV reports that Khadaffy Janjalani, chief of the bandit Abu Sayyaf group (ASG), had been slain while another leader, Abu Sabaya, had been badly wounded, but said this had to be confirmed. Apparently, there was no truth to this report as it appears that the ASG has slipped through the military cordon and disappeared into the jungles of Basilan. The news of the escape is extremely frustrating to the nation, even as it is understandable to those who have been to Basilan. Another angle being eyed is that sympathizers inside the AFP might have allowed the ASG to escape.

Whatever the reason, one significance of this escape is that unless the AFP tracks them down and finishes them off, the kidnappers will resurface another day to wreak havoc on innocent people and communities. It could be another Lamitan or another plush resort. The AFP has to wipe out the bandit group once and for all.

* * *

My husband and I ran into Vice President and Foreign Secretary Tito Guingona at the wake for Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza's 65-year-old mother, who died after a 12-year bout with cancer. I hadn't seen or talked to the Vice President since he was nominated to the post, and I must say that he was looking very well, having filled out a bit perhaps from the endless state functions he has to attend. Guingona has just returned from a conference of the annual Asia-Europe Meeting (Asem) in Beijing with nothing but praises for the Chinese's single-mindedness in achieving their goal, which is to move the giant economy for the 1.2 billion people. How I wish, said Guingona, that we could set aside politics here too and concentrate on moving our economy. *Napag-iiwanan na tayo*, he admitted.

* * *

The Vice President said the Asem focused on transnational crimes and the economy, and toward this goal he delivered a powerful speech decrying the abuse of Filipino street children by foreigners here and Filipino women abroad. He cited the cases of a 10-year-old Filipino girl who falls victim to a foreign pedophile and a Filipina who goes to a foreign country on the understanding that she'd have a decent job as a restaurant waitress, only to end up as a prostitute. "Where is the justice in those situations?" Guingona asked.

* * *

The Vice President stressed that the job of the foreign secretary in today's age has veered away from building bilateral relations (i.e., nation-to-nation) to regional groupings, such as Asean and ASEM, as well as the world. He noted that Europeans are eager to come to this part of the world and provide competition to the Americans who have been dominant here. Guingona also stressed that Filipinos have to develop a "complimentary economy" where we make up for the things we import with our exports. For instance, for all the computers we import in a big way, all we export now are animated cartoon services. This is still a very small industry that currently employs about 900 people, but he sees a great possibility here, given the Pinoys' creativity. Then, too, instead of exporting agar-agar as raw material from Sulu and Tawi-Tawi where they abound, we could put up more processing factories that could turn these seaweeds into extenders for hamburgers, components for make-up and toothpaste, etc. for export. All these would provide added jobs for the millions of jobless and under-employed Filipinos.

Guingona was talking about increasing the value-added component. For instance, while he was in Beijing, he learned that the Chinese purchased Philippine-made slippers, which they then took apart and improved upon. Then they exported their products to the Philippines in much better form and at far cheaper prices. Why can't we do it ourselves? he queried.

* * *

This columnist was invited to a buffet lunch recently with a few media colleagues at the Boulevardier of Hotel Intercontinental in Makati by Intercon's new general manager, Michael Herrmann, who was previously posted in Latin America, so he finds Manila familiar ground. Joining us were the charming Jennifer Peña, who heads the hotel's public relations section, and her assistant, Faye de Jesus. We got to talking about our experiences on election day and Jenny Peña related that her mother Pacita, 72, who is confined to a wheelchair by illness, couldn't vote because her precinct in Project 6, Quezon City, was on the second floor of the school building there. Jenny tried to explain to the Comelec people her mother's condition, hoping she could persuade them to allow her to vote on the ground floor, but to no avail. Her dilemma is doubtless shared by other disabled people every election day. The Comelec ought to be flexible enough to have a precinct on the ground floor for handicapped voters.

* * *

My good friend Baby Nebrida, a TV producer of Marian shows and a film writer who helps Secretary Heherson Alvarez in the Earthsavers' Movement, had a harrowing experience recently that could have cost her her life if her heart had been a bit weaker. Baby, who has so busy preparing for the Philippine Environment Month celebrations, took a break from her editing work to pick up some things from her tailor in Quezon City. When she got there, however, three dogs of a foreign breed attacked her, biting her repeatedly in the legs and thighs. Only the timely arrival of the tailor, attracted by her shrieks, saved her from collapsing and perhaps death.

* * *

Baby was rushed to St. Luke's Hospital and her children had to go around the city to look for the vaccine that she needed badly. Made from human embryo, each vial costs P6,000 and she needed four of them immediately. What makes the treatment painful is that the injection has to be made on the wounds. She finished one round of treatment but needs two or three more rounds. But more lasting will be the psychological and emotional trauma she suffered. Now the mere bark of a dog sends her crawling up the wall.

If this were in the United States, Baby would have sued her tailor, but *naaawa siya*. A deeply religious Marian devotee, she feels lucky enough to be alive. But there ought to be a law against service-oriented businesses keeping ferocious animals. Baby says one lesson she learned is, don't believe anyone who says his dogs don't bite. Perhaps they don't bite their master, but they could bite strangers. Then, too, she'd like the authorities to impound stray dogs and enforce a campaign for anti-rabies shots.

Stability depends on Nepal regent

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rahul Sharma

KATHMANDHU—The deaths of Nepal's king and queen in a palace shooting has brought grief and confusion to the impoverished Himalayan nation whose stability may depend on the performance of its little known new caretaker ruler.

The king's younger brother, Prince Gyanendra, has been named regent for the late king's eldest son, Dipendra, who lies in hospital in a coma amid unconfirmed reports that he is clinically dead.

Analysts say Gyanendra will have to play a key stabilizing role in Nepal, a country with many of the world's highest peaks and 22 million of its poorest people, which is battling a Maoist revolt and where the prime minister is deeply unpopular.

Crown Prince Dipendra, who was initially said to have gunned down his father King Birendra and other relatives in a dinner table quarrel on Friday over his choice of a bride and then turned the gun on himself, was named king according to the constitution. But because of his wounds, his uncle, Gyanendra, who missed the family dinner, was named regent.

The government said on Sunday the carnage was caused by an automatic weapon which exploded, but that account was dismissed by ballistics experts who said the trigger must have been pulled.

The king's violent death in such bizarre and confused circumstances will cause deep confusion in Nepal, and whoever takes Birendra's place will have big shoes to fill, analysts say.

"The role of the new king needs to be very similar to that of King Birendra," said Sridhar Khatri, professor of political science at Tribhuvan University.

Despite his largely ceremonial role, Birendra, known as the "gentle king," was a key steadying force in Nepal's tumultuous first decade as a democracy.

Although ceding absolute power in favor of a British-style constitutional monarchy in 1990, he wielded huge informal clout and was highly popular. The king is believed by many in Nepal to be a reincarnation of the Hindu deity Vishnu.

Analysts said the need for the monarchy to play a stabilizing role could be even more crucial in months to come. Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala is under massive pressure to resign over allegations of corruption and has faced violent street demonstrations against his rule. Some mourners at Saturday's funeral accused the government of being behind the slayings and along the funeral route cries of "Girija resign" were heard. Nepal has also been racked for the last five years by a spreading rebellion by radical Maoists, who want to install a one-party communist republic in a fight that has claimed 1,700 lives.

The outpouring of grief at the funeral showed the monarchy still has a strong place in peoples' hearts. "People have been reminded of the institution's role which is older than all political parties," said journalist Mana Ranjan Josse, who has written extensively on the monarchy.

Gyanendra, who was briefly king as a toddler 50 years ago when Nepal was in a state of political upheaval, will be crowned if Dipendra dies.

Josse said Gyanendra was a close confidant of his late brother but was a vastly different person. While King Birendra was a gentleman and "a nice guy" willing to accommodate several opinions, his younger brother was "hard boiled," Josse said. "People who deal with him will find him to be a no-nonsense, firm man. "He (Gyanendra) is a good orator and a bit of a thinker, a serious person. He took a back seat when his brother was alive and he will be judged on his own."

But Gyanendra has a son who could be the crown prince and who is not regarded highly in Nepal because of his wild lifestyle, press reports say.

"Gyanendra is mature and shrewd. He will try to adjust to the situation. But after him the choice is limited," political science professor Lok Raj Baral at Tribhuvan University, said.—*REUTERS*

Patterns of behavior (2)

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THERE existed an evident contrast between members of the oligarchy and the rest of the population. The Philippines never became a destination for massive immigration. Many immigrants were fortune hunters (known as carpetbaggers in the American period) or criminals who were serving sentence. Sometimes these sentences were commuted due to service rendered defending the city or other military exploits. If they managed to contract an advantageous marriage, they even become part of respectable society.

In the first half of the 17th century, Manila's 400 consisted of old settlers or their descendants, owners of an *encomienda* involved in commerce, but in the second half of the century this configuration began to change. Due to the mortality rate and the failure to find acceptable partners, men recently arrived in the islands married widows of *encomenderos* or daughters of old settlers and thus ascended the social scale.

This change brought a change in attitude, too. Rather than serving in government as the only hope for survival, there was a shift to commercial ventures. Toward the end of the 17th century, the Ayuntamiento only had three councilmen and the authorities were having a difficult time trying to convince prominent members of society to join the government.

The oligarchy in the last quarter of the century was composed of wealthy and successful businessmen. Some continued to serve the Crown as mayors, but these were the exceptions. It was a closed group that sought to extend its influence over all its acquaintances and endeavored to establish marital alliances within their sector.

The behavior of the Atienza-Ibañez Palencia family is a case in point. Diego de Palencia was very rich. One of his daughters had married Francisco de Atienza Ibañez, the possessor of another major fortune who had served as mayor and was a city council member. The marriage united two families of great political, economic and social influence. To add to the ties, when the wife of Diego de Morales, who was a daughter of Francisco Atienza, died, he remarried the sister of his former father-in-law, Atienza, who now became his brother-in-law.

The influence over children, nephews and inlaws was benevolent but reminiscent of *barangay* values and the extended family (where we are apparently stuck). Then as now the attitude was to succeed through monopoly and forget about level playing fields. These families monopolized the participation in the Galleon Trade, regiments and prestigious military positions.

The stories and attitudes are so familiar that you really have to conclude that people don't learn from history. At the time, prominent residents of the city complained that the influence of the governor facilitated in many occasions the social ascension of upstarts who hardly had anything to contribute. (So what else is new?)

One of the most notorious of the era was the case of Manuel Estacio Venegas, a man of obscure origin who ingratiated himself with Gov. Diego Fajardo. Aside from marrying a woman descended from one of the old settlers, his position as mayor of Pampanga allowed him to amass a good part of his fortune from it and the rest were the fruits of his *encomienda* and his important participation in commerce. When he overstepped his bounds and made too many enemies among the oligarchs, he was investigated and after being found guilty, his property was confiscated. It was discovered that his fortune totaled more than P400,000. His house facing the Plaza Mayor in front of the cathedral was so grand it became the palace of the governor general.

The society of the Spaniards was dominated by curiosity (in effect, *mga chismoso*). It must be pointed out that since the principal commercial venture was the galleon, there wasn't much to do in the city after its departure save wait for its return. Few people actively pursued a career, and fewer still intended to settle in the country permanently. The type of people who were coming over were not exactly intellectuals and between one factor and another, all these determined a way of life that was drawn to violence, addicted to gambling, to lawsuits and the predominance of offensive personalities. Gov. Hurtado de Corcuera on many occasions voiced his desire to leave, describing the local Spaniards as malicious and gossipy.

The city bore witness to many uproars, quarrels and power struggles during the 17th century. If the authorities on many occasions gave extreme examples of intolerance, suspicion and the spirit of revenge, this manner of behaving transmitted itself to the rest of the society. In any case, civil as well as religious institutions were discredited as a result of this malaise. The exiles of Archbishops Pardo and Guerrero, the confrontations between the civic government and the church, the rapid recourse to excommunication and the imprisonment of Governors Corcuera or Salcedo did much to undermine the prestige of Spain in the colony.

The Spaniards were not alone in the archipelago but lived side by side with the natives and the Chinese, who no doubt looked on all these goings-on with jaundiced eyes. While there were few, if any, legal unions between Filipinos and Spaniards, there were certainly a lot with the Sangleys and there are historians who believe that the union of the Filipino-Sangley practically altered the Filipino race.

(Data from "The Unknown Age: the 17th Century" by Inmaculada Alva Rodriguez.)

Happily ever after?

EVERYONE must have believed in fairy tales at least at one point in his life. It doesn't matter whether you sleep in huge soft bed in a mansion or a cardboard box beneath the flyover, it doesn't matter if the fairy tale is about Sleeping Beauty or Superman or about Prince Charming taking you away in his arms and riding with you on his horse into the sunset, every single one of us has at least once believed that anything was possible and that a "happily ever after" existed.

YOUNGBLOOD

Melissa Anne Rodriguez Lim

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

When I was a kid, my parents read me fairy tales before I went to sleep. As soon as I could do it, I read and read fairy tales like there was no tomorrow. It was a hobby that got harder on my parents' wallets as I could devour at least one book a day.

I remember one of my aunts telling me to go slow on my reading because at the rate I was going, I would soon run out of stories to read. I didn't really care; I figured the world would never run out of fairy tales.

To the eyes of a 4-year-old girl, the Edsa Revolution was one of the "bestest" fairy tales in the world. There was an evil king who was mean to his people. He reveled in his power, thinking he was going to live forever. The people eventually got fed up with him. They went to Edsa and held hands and sang songs until the bad guy ran away, and everybody lived happily ever after.

But I was wrong when I thought that getting rid of the dictator (my first big word) was going to make everything all right. It didn't. Within the 15 years, another one of his kind surfaced. I'm beginning to think they have a warehouse to breed these creeps.

In the last two years, I've been losing faith in the government than I have had in all the 18 years of my life. Our "king" was an embarrassment to the country. He kept making disparaging and insulting statements against women. He stole enough money to make the dictator proud. We became the laughingstock of the international community. (As if mail-order brides weren't humiliating enough.)

Last January, we witnessed the entire country go to the dogs as 11 senators voted against to hide the truth from our people. I was among the hundreds of thousands of people who went to Edsa to protest the suppression of our right to know. I was enraged. I was seething, full of righteous indignation.

But more than anything else, I was sad. I guess it never sank into my consciousness that the fairy tale was really over. The bad guys were getting away and laughing all the way to the bank. Erap was turning my fairy tale into a never-ending action movie, with one bad sequel after the other and a thousand lame one-liners. It was like a B movie from hell.

I stayed in Edsa for two entire days. Before then I had never in my entire life joined a rally for or against anything. Most people would probably call me apathetic, although I'm more inclined to say that I was just too deeply engrossed with my little dream world.

I went to Edsa because a grave injustice had been done. I rallied for the truth. I rallied for my 5-year-old sister, and for my future children. I could not stand the thought that they would live in a place like this, and since my family was not leaving the country any time soon, our "king" had to leave, or at least, resign.

For the first time in my entire life, I was right in the middle of it all. Never before had I made so many friends in such a short span of time. I could see that there were other people who still believed that it wasn't too late to make up for past mistakes.

To some, Edsa might have been just one big street party, but to me, it was something entirely different. I was seeing my happy ending just around the corner. For the first time in my whole life, I cried while singing the national anthem and I was singing with conviction "*...ang mamatay ng dahil sa iyo.*"

Everyone was expecting the worst. My mother wouldn't even let me go at first because she was scared that violence might break out if some groups staged a coup d'état.

On Jan. 20, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was sworn in as President of the Republic of the Philippines. I have never been a fan of hers. I remember thinking how her smile was so "plastic" when she was still running for vice president, but this time I was seeing her in a different light. She looked like a heroine to me, and that meant so much more because she was a woman and she was the one trying to straighten out everything.

There was peace in the kingdom for the next three months. Then all of a sudden all hell broke loose. I realized that the people were divided after all. It didn't help that there were crafty politicians behind the uprising, and that they stirred up the people into doing things that ruined the meaning of people power.

Above anything else, I was most proud of the way we Filipinos fought for our beliefs. A peaceful revolution was an entirely new concept to the rest of the world and we were admired for pulling it off. We pulled it off once, and we did it again. Why did we have to ruin everything?

People threw stones at the media people and destroyed their equipment. The military and the police used guns and sticks and hosed down civilians. Vehicles were set on fire. There was blood on Mendiola once again. And there's no one else to blame but ourselves. Blame the Edsa II people for rushing the swearing in of the new President. Blame Erap for still claiming the presidency, even after the Supreme Court rejected his petition to be recognized as president twice. Blame the Edsa III people for resorting to violence. Blame the scheming politicians behind all this chaos. Blame the ex-heroine for the unnecessary bloodbath.

And yes, blame me, too. Blame me for being too idealistic. Now I have run out of fairy tales. Maybe there is no happily ever after, after all.

Melissa Anne Rodriguez Lim, 18, is a senior college student of the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

THEY SAID

Mental stress

"What Mr. Estrada has is mental stress. Any psychological stress can aggravate whatever present medical condition he has."
—Cardiologist Marcelino Durante, president of Philippine College for Physicians

Pure veterans

"Why recognize them incrementally? They are either veterans or they are not...There's no such thing as a 50-percent veteran."
—Cesar Patulot, seeking full military benefits for Filipinos who fought for the US in World War II

Ingredients of victory

"Sympathy more than reason, empty propaganda more than moral integrity and popularity more than genuine honest pro-people platform have apparently ruled."
—Zambales Bishop Deogracias Iniguez's analysis on outcome of elections in Central Luzon

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LETTERS

A very optimistic view of the polls

THIS has reference to Randy David's column on the brighter side of the Filipino voter.

I didn't know he was an incurable optimist until I read his column. Kudos to him for seeing a half-full glass in an otherwise empty one, having the courage to provide a positive insight into Noli de Castro's runaway victory and the imminent victory of people we love to hate.

Much as I want to share in David's optimism, I must admit I still cannot get over the harsh fact of the "non-elitist" victory of De Castro over a Tañada or that of the martyr from San Juan over a Monsod.

I was telling my multinational peers here in Singapore the other day that if you have to look for one single evidence that Philippines has not progressed for the last 30 years or so, you just have to observe our elections. I think I was about 10 years old when I first became aware of this "democratic" process, and sadly, I still hear the same old tune of Comelec inefficiency, slow count, guns, goons, gold, etc., etc. Not to mention, of course, the way Filipinos vote in which fortunately David can still find something to cheer about.

I wonder why he didn't include the positive note that we have once and for all confirmed who's more' popular between the megastar and the star for all seasons.—**JOSEPH GALANG, mcarg@yahoo.com**

Values and the civil service

VALUES development is a continuing program of every government agency.

In recent years, there has been much concern about ethics, values and morality.

There is a growing perception that there is something wrong with the values of civil servants. And while it is true that government penalizes those who are guilty of immorality and corruption, it cannot prevent those who are already in the system from committing irregularities.

Hence, values orientation and reorientation programs are continuously pursued as a strategy to make civil servants aware of the need to behave professionally. These training programs are a means by which the public can be assured of better service delivery.

I hope that the heads of all agencies of government will continue their values orientation programs. Not only is this required by law (R.A. 6713), it is also their moral responsibility.—**MARIA CRISTINA REMO-GONZALES, Don Ventura Street, Villa Victoria Subdivision, Dolores, City of San Fernando, 2000 Pampanga**

Arms can't wipe out Abu Sayyaf

THE GOVERNMENT is beginning to show some backbone in their fight against the Abu Sayyaf. But its *dudurugin-ko-kayo* bluster, like Joseph Estrada's, is useless. An all-out military operation against the bandits will only end in failure for two reasons:

1. The Abu Sayyaf is far more experienced and skillful in guerrilla warfare in Sulu and Basilan than the military. The bandits know the terrain. And if the military is thinking of shelling the bandits out of their hideout, they better think again. Civilians and the hostages' lives would be put in jeopardy. The shelling and "raining of bullets" should have been done several months ago after the last Sipadan hostage was released. That was the right time for the government offensive when innocent lives were not in danger.

2. The people in these areas have greater fear and loyalty to the bandits than to the government. The Abu Sayyaf has control over their lives.

Former chief negotiator Robert Aventajado even claimed that the people closest and the ones surrounding the Abu Sayyaf were their blood relatives. The government cannot penetrate that deep to get the Abu Sayyaf leaders.

It is impossible to stop the Abu Sayyaf with a hard-line stance. *Hindi mauubos ang mga lokolokong iyon*. The government should consider solving the situation through negotiation. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo must first suspend the military offensive (but keep the government forces ready) and stop delivering all those movie tough-guy lines fed to her or she'll end up like Erap.

The best way to eliminate the Abu Sayyaf (and all the other ills in our country) is still through basic and concrete reforms. Reforms must start from quality education, land reform and genuine separation of church and state (and both of them must do their jobs well). When these steps are taken our nation will gradually evolve into a progressive, unified and stronger country.—**DINDO SANTIAGO, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, Philippines**

Undue imposition on travelers

I WOULD like to congratulate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for removing one of the irritants in Philippine tourism: the airport cart rental of $1 or P40 per cart. This is a relief for travelers who already pay P550 as airport tax, in addition to a travel tax of P1,600, if you are a Filipino (except for overseas workers). We are the only country I know who tax citizens for traveling abroad.

Be that as it may, the other irritant that can be removed at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is the policy on the weight of carry-on-baggages which is limited to only 7.5 kilos or 16.5 lbs.

In the Baggage Information and Tips of an international airline (Star Alliance) the policy on carry-ons is:

"Carry-on baggage may not exceed the outside dimensions of 9 inches by 14 in. by 22 in. (maximum 45 linear inches) and may not exceed 50 pounds."

Is there a way we can reconcile this? I hope the Department of Tourism will make representations with airport authorities.—**LINO OLANO, msbolano @aol.com**

IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph

Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

Saving Mehan Gardens

THE HERITAGE Conservation Society (HCS) is organizing a different kind of picnic this morning at Mehan Gardens on Arroceros Street, Manila. The picnic, scheduled from 8 to 10 a.m. will include a serenade dedicated to Mayor Lito Atienza, appealing to him to reconsider his decision to convert the Mehan Gardens into a campus for the City Colleges of Manila.

Appropriately, today is World Environment Day, with the Mehan Gardens issue challenging us to think of environmentalism both in terms of nature and history.

I wouldn't be surprised if some readers aren't aware of where Mehan Gardens is. This is the area near the Manila City Hall, more or less at the foot of Quezon Bridge that connects into Quiapo. In the past, it was a center for the city's social life. The area includes Metropolitan Theater, one of the finest art deco structures in Asia dating back to the 1930s. The theater has been abandoned for years now, unused because of bureaucratic snags and squabbling.

Mehan Gardens itself has a long history. It was first established as the Jardin Botanico in 1858. The Americans renamed it Mehan Gardens and built a zoo to go with the botanical gardens. There was also a flower market on a small street between the gardens and the theater. The zoo and botanical gardens eventually closed down but Mehan Gardens continued to be a site for public events until the 1970s. It was even renamed at one point to Sining Kayumanggi.

Although it fell into disuse through the years, Mehan Gardens has continued to play a crucial role in the city's ecology. Biologists point out that plants, especially trees, are the planet's lungs. Mehan Gardens, located at one of Manila's major thoroughfares, works with nearby Luneta in helping to prevent the city from choking on its own waste.

The neglect of Mehan Gardens and now its possible destruction remind us as well of how environmentalism has become so distorted in the Philippines. Politicians of all stripes talk about environmental conservation but in reality, environmentalism rarely goes beyond cleanliness and beautification campaigns that neither clean nor beautify. We're just too quick about destroying green spaces and building tacky malls that then try to imitate nature with plastic plants and artificial waterfalls.

I'm going to make a detour from the Mehan Gardens issue and point out how else we've distorted environmentalism. Besides those cleanliness campaigns, we equate environmentalism with "nature-tripping" which often end up destroying the environment. Mt. Apo, for example, has been closed to mountain climbers because caretakers need to clean up all the garbage left by so-called nature-loving climbers.

Let's go to another example: the dolphin and whale show at Subic. Parents take their kids to that show thinking this is one way of developing environmental awareness. But environmentalists have pointed out that such shows actually violate principles of environmental conservation. Lori Tan, a member of the Inter-agency Task Force on Marine Mammal Conservation has pointed out that bottlenose dolphins and false killer whales are not endangered species and that there is no justification for keeping them in captivity. Many other questions have been raised such as the safety of transferring the animals to Subic and keeping them in captivity. Despite these protests, the project has been allowed to proceed.

The whale and dolphin shows reflect a fatal flaw in our distorted environmentalism: our messianic tendencies. We talk of "saving the environment" when in reality we continue to assert our domination over nature. Keeping dolphins in captivity and having them perform are just like those nature trips that end up littering the environment: we're still unable to recognize that our compulsion to dominate nature is at the root of its destruction.

Environmentalism recognizes the value of each plant and each animal in the way it contributes to the survival of all other species. When one specie dwindles or becomes extinct, the entire system suffers. Scientists point out, for example, that among the many thousands of plant species that have become extinct, there may have been potential cures for many human diseases, including cancer, maybe even HIV/AIDS.

This takes us back to the issue of Mehan Gardens. You take away that green area and you deprive many animals—birds and insects, for example—of their habitat. The losses aren't just biological; I'm also talking about the links that are severed among human beings, among generations. How do you teach the young the value of conservation and recycling when we insist on demolishing the past? And how can we talk about nurturing the human spirit when the only recreational activities we have to offer young people are the thrill rides in theme parks or the games in computer arcades where you blast spaceships off the screen?

Many years ago the NGO I worked with had a Dutch volunteer who was helping us with agricultural projects. I never forgot one of his first sessions with the office on environmentalism: "Don't talk about saving the earth. We can blow each other up with nuclear bombs, poison each other with pesticides but the planet will survive." It was a good point. Even if humans go the way of dinosaurs, the planet earth stays. Maybe the cockroaches—one of the longest surviving species on earth—will inherit that parched earth, going their merry way minus those pesky human beings with their Earth Days and World Environment Days.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Green thumbs up for Loren!

BAYER congratulates
Senator Loren Legarda
for being elected to the prestigious
Global 500 Roll of Honor
of the United Nations
Environment Program (UNEP).

Today, World Environment Day, Senator Legarda receives the UN award for her staunch advocacy of environmental issues starting with her career as a broadcast journalist and later as a senator pushing for environmental legislation.

As one of eighteen Global 500 laureates, she joins the ranks of former US President Jimmy Carter, former Norway Prime Minister Go Harlem Brundtland, environmental TV producer Sir David Attenborough, French marine explorer Jacques Cousteau, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

Senator Legarda is Honorary Chairperson of Luntiang Pilipinas which, together with Bayer, is presently conducting the Search for Young Environmental Envoys–a UNEP-recognized contest that will send seven college students to Germany for a week-long tour of environmental "best practices."

This award makes Sen. Legarda an ideal partner in Bayer's Search for Young Environmental Envoys, which is part of its worldwide Responsible Care Program.

For more information on the Search for Young Environmental Envoys, call Bayer at (02) 450-7200 or toll-free at 1-800-10-ENVIRON (368-4766).

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Brittle ceasefire holds

JERUSALEM—Prodded by a nervous world community, Israel and the Palestinians stuck to a brittle ceasefire as anguished families mourned and buried the young victims of the grisly terrorist attack at a Tel Aviv disco.

Israeli officials said Sunday that there was a reduction of both violence and official media "incitement" since Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat announced his ceasefire the previous evening—but that the key was whether Arafat would signal militant groups to stop attacks by rearresting their key activists.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Ziad Abu-Zayyad said that was out of the question: "We're not talking about arresting people." He also said the ceasefire applies to Palestinian forces in areas under full Palestinian control—suggesting it might not include attacks within Israel.

In Israel, there was hope but little optimism that relative calm might stick.

A senior Israeli security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a planned "very severe airstrike" against the Palestinians was called off after Arafat ordered the ceasefire—but predicted the ceasefire would collapse and the plan would be revived: "I am sure that you will see it. It will happen."

Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said Arafat's announcement had reduced the violence—but the military reported several incidents of Palestinian fire Sunday: at an Army vehicle in the West Bank, at Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, at an Army outpost. Late Sunday, a mortar shell was fired on the Kfar Darom settlement in Gaza, the Army said. No one was injured in any of the incidents.

The high toll of the Friday night suicide bombing—20 youths killed while waiting in line at a disco—had raised fears of a dramatic escalation that might spread the bloody eight-month conflict to other parts of the region, and it brought foreign pressure on Arafat.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, who canceled a trip to Costa Rica to deal with the situation, issued a warning to the Palestinian leader on CNN Sunday, saying that "this is the time to bring the violence under control."

He wouldn't confirm Israeli radio and television reports that CIA Director George Tenet planned to visit the region, where the EU's special Middle East envoy, Miguel Moratinos, was already shuttling between the two sides.

German Foreign Minister Joschka Fischer—who helped mediate the cooling-down on Saturday—held a second meeting with Arafat Sunday night in the West Bank and urged him to enforce the ceasefire. *AP*

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Israelis lay to rest blast victims

YARKON CEMETERY, Israel—Tel Aviv school headmaster Avraham Benvenisti watched four of his students buried Sunday, all victims of the beachside suicide bomber who killed 19 Israelis in the deadliest attack by Palestinian militants in years.

Two of them, sisters Yelena and Yuli Nelimov aged 18 and 16, were laid to rest at the Yarkon cemetery north of the Mediterranean city, their bodies carried in coffins draped in white flags bearing the blue Star of David.

"Yelena and Yulia were always together and now they are dead," sobbed their friend Lisa Pituchin. "I'm afraid. Lots of my friends are in hospital and every day there are more who die from their wounds."

Over 100 more people were wounded in the suicide blast, 52 of whom remain in hospital. Three of the wounded were said to be in critical condition.

The headmaster joined politicians, friends and relatives, many of them shaken and angry, at cemeteries around the Mediterranean city to mourn a dozen of the teenagers killed outside a popular nightclub on Friday night.

Their deaths brought to 599 the number killed since the Palestinian intifada against Israel's 34-year occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip erupted last September.

The vast majority of the casualties have been Palestinians.

"Only a Satanic hand, a stone heart, could wipe out such angelic smiles." Education Minister Limor Livnat, a member of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's Likud party.

"In a normal world, the minister of education deals with educating children, not mourning them," she lamented. "But we are not in a normal world. Our children learn songs of peace and theirs learn songs of war."

Dressed in black, hundreds of pupils from Benvenisti's Shevach Mofet secondary school for scientific studies came to the cemetery, some of them weeping as a rabbi repeated the Kaddish, the Jewish prayer for the dead. *AFP*

Ex-shoeshine boy voted new Peru president

LIMA, Peru—Alejandro Toledo rose from a poor childhood as a shoeshine boy to become Peru's first freely elected president of Indian descent, defeating controversial ex-president Alan Garcia.

The election came seven months after Peruvians drove authoritarian President Alberto Fujimori from office in a corruption scandal, and signaled a return to democratic voting after elections tainted by fraud.

With few reported incidents of trouble at polling places Sunday, international observers called it Peru's cleanest elections in years.

"Tonight Peruvians celebrate the triumph of democracy," Toledo told thousands of supporters gathered in front of the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Lima. "I swear, brothers and sisters, I will never let you down."

With 75 percent of the vote counted, Toledo had 52 percent to 48 percent for Garcia, said Fernando Tuesta, the nation's top election official.

"The time has come to extend Dr. Toledo my congratulations for his triumph on this democratic day," Garcia said, offering his help in the new administration.

International monitors—including former US President Jimmy Carter—had said previous elections were deeply flawed. On Sunday, there were few reported incidents of trouble at polling places.

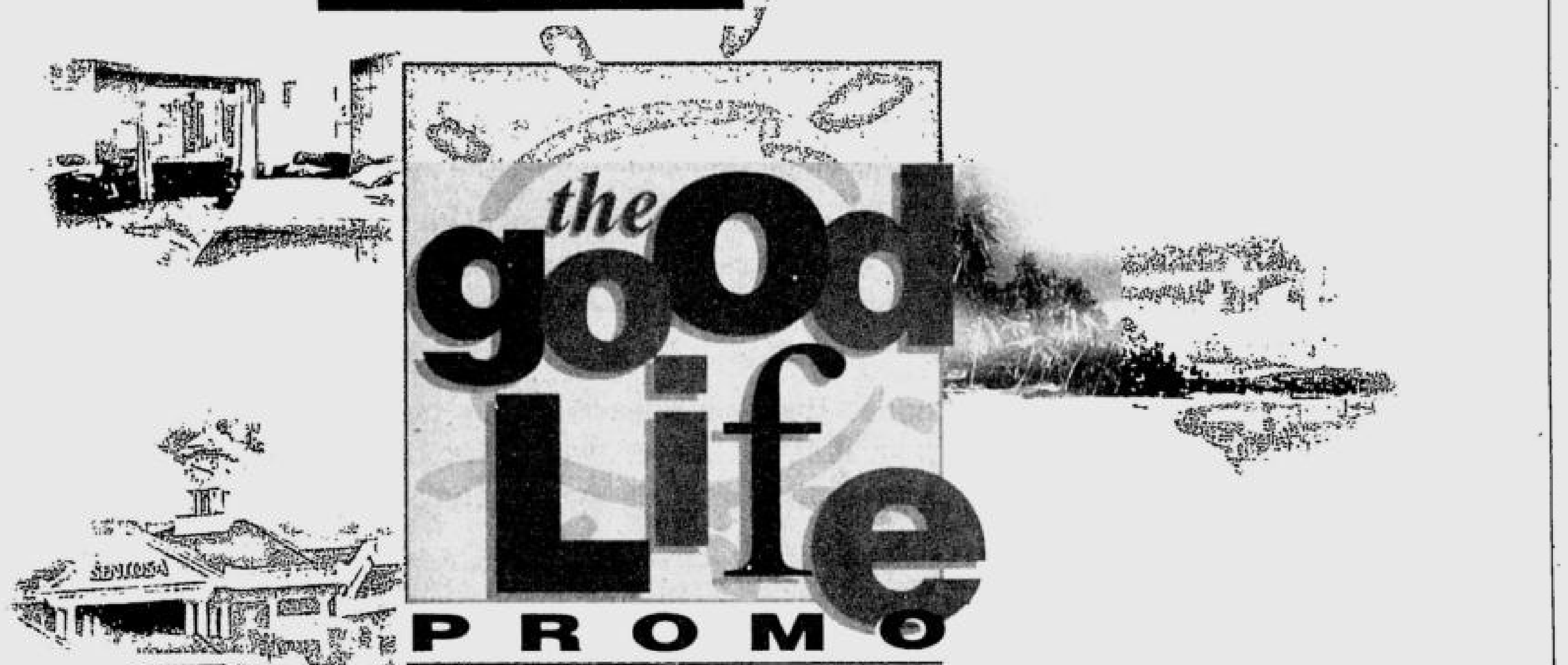
"I want to congratulate the Peruvian people for a clean election and a demonstration of civic maturity," US Ambassador John Hamilton said.

Toledo may well be the first president in Latin America to win after making Indian rights a top campaign issue. There have been other Peruvian presidents of native Indian descent, but they took power in military coups.

The 55-year-old capitalized on his dark, chiseled Indian features and short stature to appeal to a mostly poor native Indian and mixed-race population that accounts for more than 80 percent of Peru's 26 million people.

Toledo's strength came also from his leadership role in the campaign to unseat Fujimori, whose regime collapsed in November amid mounting corruption scandals. Toledo withdrew from a runoff against Fujimori in May of last year, accusing him of planning to rig the results.

Like Garcia, Toledo campaigned largely on a populist platform. He has pledged to create 2.5 million jobs, raise salaries for public workers and lower taxes. *AP*



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3 Cut-off date for ADB computation is every month-end.
4 Winners will be determined through a computerized draw. The computer shall generate the account number to be included in the raffle based on the points earned.
5 The account number will serve as the raffle number. The number of points earned from each account will be equivalent to the number of times the account number will be generated for the raffle.
6 An account can only win once on the same raffle date. In case an account is drawn more than once, the account holder is entitled to claim the prize of higher value.
7 Winners shall be informed through registered mail and through a one-time newspaper ad of national circulation.
8 All accounts named or affixed to Keppel Bank, its employees, advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from the raffle.
9 The redemption period for the prizes is within sixty (60) days from notification. The trip prizes can be availed within sixty (60) days from the date the winner claimed the prize. Failure to redeem within this period shall mean forfeiture of the prize with prior approval of DTI-NCR.
10 Travel prizes are subject to confirmation by the official travel agency. Allow two (2) weeks notification before date of travel for airline booking and hotel reservations. All travel document expenses will be shouldered by the winner.
11 All prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
12 In case of complaints, the decision of Keppel Bank, along with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall be deemed final.
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14 Raffle draw dates will be on August 6, 2001 and November 5, 2001, 10:00 a.m. at the Keppel Bank Head Office, E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue Corner Monte De Piedad St., Cubao, Q. C.

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Opec downplays Iraq oil export halt

VIENNA—Opec downplayed yesterday Iraq's suspension of oil exports under UN control, taken to protest a UN Security Council one-month extension of its regime, as oil prices in Asia spiked sharply.

Iranian oil minister Bijan Namdar Zangeneh said he was unconcerned about any shortfall in oil production due to Iraq's decision to halt crude exports, echoing comments by other leading members of the 11-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

"I think that this Opec (meeting) will manage the market and I am not concerned about any shortage in the market," he said on his arrival in Vienna for a meeting Tuesday of Opec, which produces 40 percent of the world's oil.

Opec Secretary General Ali Rodriguez, of Venezuela said: "We have to wait and see what's happening."

"The effect is on the future market; for the time being the supplies are sufficient for demand." *AFP*

JOINT MANIFESTO

A Strong and Urgent Appeal for Fairness and Justice from the Country's Frontline Tax Collectors

WE, the **Bureau of Internal Revenue's Philippine Association of Revenue District Officers (PARDO) and** the **Philippine Union of Revenue Examiners-Philippine Association of Revenue Officers (PURE-PARO)**, representing its officers and members, are strongly appealing to Her Excellency, **President GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO**, to cause the immediate ouster of Mr. **Rene Bañez** as Commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

We firmly believe that the President ought to appoint a more professional, bureaucratic, transparent, fair, just, and untainted successor to Commissioner Bañez in the massive reshuffle that he implemented in the BIR that caused demoralization and resentment among the rank and file of the Bureau.

We are of the position that the said revamp is uncalled for and was done with grave abuse of discretion considering that many of those who were reassigned or transferred from their current posts had performed exceedingly well and surpassed their assigned collection targets.

We know that Commissioner Bañez, formerly a tax practitioner, ordered the reshuffle to punish and retaliate against certain key officials of the BIR who have not given in to his perorations, influence peddling and arm-twisting machinations in the Bureau.

We submit that Commissioner Bañez, who believes in his absolute power over everyone in the Bureau, should be blamed for the demoralization, antagonism, depravation, insecurity of tenure, injustice, violation of human rights, and defiance of authority that has taken root in the BIR since he assumed office.

We observe that by Commissioner Bañez's actions, he is not supportive of the President's pronouncement that her administration is committed to promote good government, respect for the bureaucracy and the civil service laws, and professionalism and transparency in the government service.

We urge the President, in view of the present economic crisis, to order an investigation into the existence of a possible conflict of interest of BIR Chief Bañez's present position to his previous jobs as tax consultant and tax officer for big corporations, that are among the large taxpayers of the country.

Finally, we appeal to Her Excellency to look deeply and act decisively in addressing the problems currently plaguing the BIR, the country's top revenue-generating agency, and to make sure that the kind of undue umbrage and harassment Commissioner Bañez has sown in the Bureau will not befall other government offices.

Madame President, remove Bañez now in order to restore and boost the morale of the men and women in the BIR who are tasked with raising the money needed to finance your administration's programs for national development, poverty alleviation and new political order.

Officers of the Bureau of Internal Revenue's
Philippine Association of Revenue District Officers (PARDO) and the
Philippine Union of Revenue Examiners-
Philippine Association of Revenue Officers (PURE-PARO)

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Revenue District Officer
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ednafcuartero
EDNA F. CUARTERO
Revenue District Officer
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INQUIRER-June 05, 2001

CHINESE policemen patrol Beijing's Tiananmen Square on the 12th anniversary of the pro-democracy uprising June 4, 2001. Amnesty International is renewing its call on China that it hold an inquiry into the massacre of hundreds of protesters by Chinese troops in the square 12 years ago. REUTERS

Pain of Beijing slays still burns, HK groups say

HONG KONG—Although time has eroded much of Hong Kong's horror at Beijing brutal massacre of its own people 12 years ago, the memories of the events still burn deep, pro-democracy groups said here.

Fear among the former British colony's six million people that the Tiananmen Square killings could be repeated in the territory after it returned to Chinese rule in 1997 have all but been extinguished by the smooth transition of power.

But as an estimated 40,000 Hong Kong people prepare to attend the territory's annual June 4 candle-lit vigil to commemorate the 1989 killings, pro-democracy activists continue to push for Beijing to be held accountable.

A legislator and spokesperson for the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotice Movements in China, Lee Cheuk-yan, said Beijing must not be allowed to sweep the issue under the carpet.

However he said the push to maintain the rage in Hong Kong was getting harder, with the numbers of people attending the annual candle-lit vigil in Hong Kong's Victoria Park dwindling each year from a peak of 150,000 in 1990.

While the tragic events initially moved millions to pour onto the streets of Hong Kong in 1990, economic issues such as falling property prices, have become more pressing issues in the territory.

Coupled with the powerful Beijing propaganda machine, the result is that more and more people have adopted the view that rightly or wrongly the Tiananmen crackdown was a "necessary evil" that had saved the mainland total chaos and collapse.

"While Hong Kong people may have forgotten, we must continue to fight for democracy," Lee said.

"The Tiananmen issue is like a thorn in the flesh of the Chinese authorities and it must be removed if they are to move forward."

Despite the falling numbers at the annual vigil, Lee said a crowd this year of 40,000 people would still make it the biggest gathering of protesters in the region on any issue this year.

On June 4, 1989, after months of protests, the Chinese military swept into Tiananmen Square and ruthlessly beat and fired indiscriminately at the largely student demonstrators.

An exact death toll has never emerged, but witnesses say hundreds, if not thousands, were killed.

Sophia Woodman, research director for Human Rights in China, said some people wanted to forget.

"They argue that China has moved on since then, with the economy taking off and there's no point continuing this obsession with the past," Woodman said.

However, Lee insisted that "no amount of economic reform can change China into a better nation."

Amnesty International said last week the Tiananmen crackdown may have occurred 12 years ago, but the injustices of the event still hurt many people.

"For many the pain is not confined to memory, it is a part of their everyday lives," Amnesty said.

"The Chinese government owes justice to the thousands of victims and their relatives." *AFP*

'Zorba the Greek' star Anthony Quinn dead at 86

QUINN

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island—Anthony Quinn, the barrel-chested Oscar winner remembered for his roles as the earthy hero of "Zorba the Greek" and the fierce Bedouin leader in "Lawrence of Arabia," died. He was 86.

Quinn died of respiratory failure Sunday morning at a Boston hospital, said Providence Mayor Vincent "Buddy" Cianci, a friend of the actor. Quinn lived in nearby Bristol.

"He was larger than life," Cianci said. "I was proud to call him a friend."

Quinn's family had asked Cianci to make the announcement. The actor had been hospitalized for 17 days with pneumonia and respiratory problems.

Quinn, who appeared in more than 100 feature films, won Academy Awards for best supporting actor in "Viva Zapata!" and "Lust for Life."

Born in Mexico and raised in poverty in East Los Angeles, Quinn went from stage and B-movie roles to become an international leading man renowned for his big-man sensitivity and honest acting style.

In a film career that spanned more than 50 years, Quinn portrayed characters including kings, Indians, a pope, a boxer and an artist.

"I never get the girl," Quinn once joked in an interview. "I wind up with a country instead."

He won his first Oscar for his work in the 1952 film "Viva Zapata!" as the brother of Mexican revolutionary leader Emiliano Zapata.

To many, Quinn's Oscar-nominated characterization of the Greek peasant Zorba in 1964 remained his most memorable role.

The Ouzo-drinking and bouzouki-dancing Zorba was Quinn's favorite role as well, so much so that he returned to the stage in 1983 in a revival of the musical inspired by the film. *AP*

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Nepal names Prince Gyanendra king

KATMANDU—Prince Gyanendra was named as Nepal's new king yesterday, following the death of his nephew who had technically been king since a shooting Friday that killed most of the royal family.

The State Council, which oversees royal affairs, met in the morning and proclaimed Gyanendra, who had been acting king, as monarch of this beautiful but poor Himalayan nation still stunned from the palace shooting spree.

The council confirmed that King Dipendra, the former crown prince whom officials privately blame for killing his parents, the king and queen, and six other members of the family before turning a gun on himself, had died early in the morning.

Dipendra had reportedly been on life support since the shots rang out in the royal palace, and a State Council member said early yesterday that he had died.

The State Council member, who spoke on condition of anonymity, did not say whether life support had been withdrawn or whether the 29-year-old Dipendra had died on his own.

After meeting in the morning, the 125-member State Council, or Raj Parishad, issued a statement confirming a new king was named after Dipendra died at 3:45 a.m.

"The next in succession to the throne, Prince Gyanendra, has been declared his majesty, the king of the Kingdom of Nepal," the State Council said.

A funeral for the late King Dipendra was expected later in the day—with much of Nepal already shut down for a five-day period of mourning for the slain royals. Some angry Nepalese have protested, demanding a better explanation for what happened.

At the Hanumandhoka Palace, where a coronation ceremony was to take place, police set up tight security early in the morning.

After the shootings, Gyanendra had been named regent, or acting king, and many Nepalese had said they could not accept Dipendra as king, because he was blamed for shooting the beloved King Birendra—whom many Nepalese regard as an incarnation of the Hindu deity, Lord Vishnu.

The palace shootings were alleged to have resulted from an argument in which Dipendra's mother, Queen Aiswarya, had rejected his choice of a bride.

The new king's coronation might help put Nepal on a path of recovery from its national nightmare, which still has not been explained to the satisfaction of many people here.

Gyanendra had issued a statement Sunday that confused matters more by saying the royal killings were the result of "accidental" automatic weapons fire at the palace—and many Nepalese called that explanation preposterous.

Previously, senior military sources inside the royal palace and government officials said Dipendra had been the gunman in the massacre before turning the gun on himself. *AP*

NEPAL's new monarch, King Gyanendra, sits on the throne at the Hanunan Palace in Kathmandu June 4. Nepal proclaimed its second new king in two days on Monday after the death of Gyanendra's nephew, King Dipendra, following a coma.
REUTERS

Macedonia PM predicts early polls

SKOPJE, Macedonia—Acknowledging that Macedonia's multi-ethnic government is "barely functioning," the prime minister has suggested early elections to end a political impasse and the ongoing insurgency by ethnic Albanians.

Ljubco Georgievski admitted in a television interview late Sunday that the broad-based coalition government, recently formed by majority Slav and ethnic Albanian politicians, may be a failure.

"The government is barely functioning," Georgievski said. "We can't get on with any serious work because of daily squabbles," over whether to use military or political means in dealing with the ethnic Albanian militants.

The insurgency erupted in February. Armed ethnic Albanians say they are fighting for broader rights, while Slav leaders regard them as "terrorists" bent on seizing control of a large piece of the country.

"It would be best to hold early elections as early as September," to end a current impasse in fruitless talks with ethnic Albanian political representatives, Georgievski said.

Ethnic Albanians form a third of Macedonia's two million people and demand their status be upgraded with rights equal to those of majority Slavs.

Slavic parties in the government coalition shared with ethnic Albanian parties have offered to consider the demands but only after the militants lay down their weapons. The Slav leaders have also offered an amnesty for most of the rebels.

There has been no clear response from the rebels who, despite some losses, have endured nearly a dozen government offensives meant to wipe them out. Nato and the European Union fear the conflict could devastate Macedonia and spread to neighboring countries with ethnic Albanian populations.

Georgievski said the insurgency is a result of "at least 15, 20 years of planning by ethnic Albanian nationalists" and that negotiations are possible "only after a military solution"—a defeat of the rebels.

There was no immediate comment from the ethnic Albanian political leaders who were in a meeting Sunday evening with Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski.

After the meeting, Trajkovski spoke of a "timetable and dynamics" of bringing "more representatives of minorities into state bodies." *AP*

Doomed romances nothing new in royal circles

DEVYANI RANA

KATMANDU—The killings of Nepal's royal family apparently had its roots in a problem familiar to many royal houses around the world: Finding a suitable mate for the prince and keeping the line of succession intact.

Crown Prince Dipendra became king after he allegedly opened fire with an automatic weapon on his father the king, his mother the queen and other royals gathered for a family dinner where they discussed the 29-year-old prince's marriage prospects.

Prince Gyanendra released a statement Sunday saying the shootings were "accidental," contradicting earlier reports that the crown prince had gunned down his family in a fit of rage.

Although there has been no official confirmation of the prince's intentions, local newspapers and the talk of the town has been that Dipendra wanted to wed Devyani Rana, the 20-something daughter of a Nepal parliament member and former Cabinet minister.

Queen Aiswarya is believed to have objected. She would have preferred an arranged marriage—the type had by most Nepalese.

Rana's father had appropriate blood because he comes from the ruling-class Rana caste, but the young woman's mother was not, making Rana unsuitable by royal terms. Rana's mother was from India, and even though she was part of the royal Gwalior family, that apparently wasn't enough.

King Birendra came from the Shah caste, as all Nepalese monarchs must, and royal Shahs are permitted only to marry other Shahs or into the Rana caste.

The Deshantar Weekly here recently explained the troubles in a story that referred to Devyani Rana's mother as a "C-grade Rana," implying that the young woman was also C-grade and thus not pure enough for the crown prince.

A family shooting that reportedly ended when Dipendra turned the gun on himself may sound more like the social ills that befall more ordinary people elsewhere.

But it may reflect an era in which common problems can filter up to royal families, particularly when younger royals put their own feelings—including love—above their sense of duty

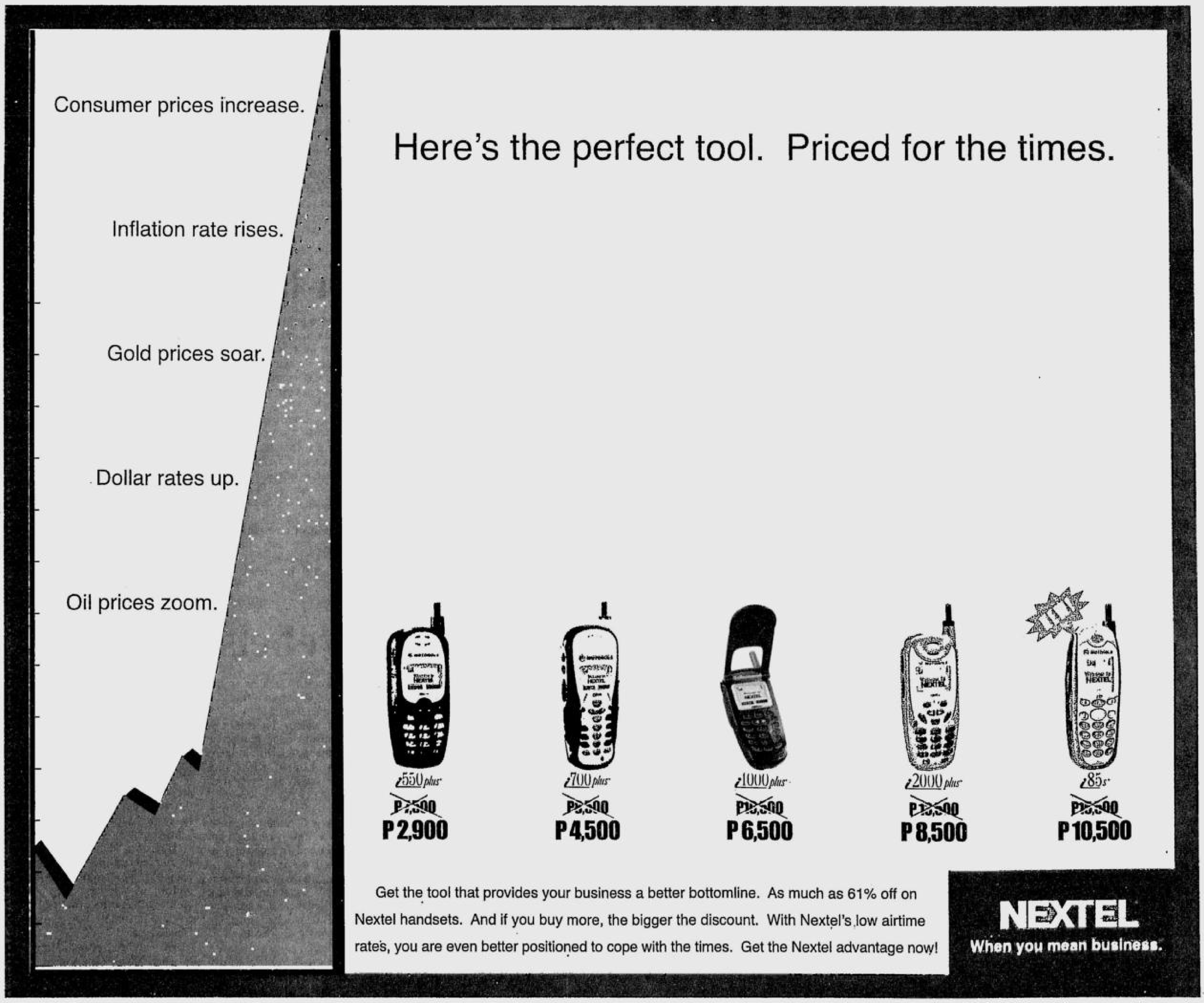
Spaniards are abuzz over 33-year-old Crown Prince Felipe's frequent appearances with the 26-year-old Norwegian fashion model Eva Sannum _ and wondering whether she would be a suitable queen. Critics point to her previous lingerie ads and topless pictures of her sunbathing.

In the Netherlands, the engagement of Crown Prince Willem Alexander to the Argentinian Maxima Zorreguieta has drawn some criticism because the woman's father was a government minister during part of a 1976-83 military dictatorship.

And a recent flap developed in Britain over allegations that Prince Philip has said he does not believe his son, Prince Charles, to be a good heir to the throne because he is neither dedicated nor disciplined enough to succeed his mother, Queen Elizabeth II.

In his younger days, Charles was closely watched over his choice of a mate and when he settled on Lady Diana Spencer, the world thought a storybook royal match had been made.

There was no fairybook ending. *AP*



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Suspect in Chinoy killings found dead

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The prime suspect in the robbery-slaying of cousins Brian and John Clemens Go was found dead in an apparent suicide two days after police said he wrote a note threatening to kill himself.

Rufino Alacre, alias Loloy, 30, was found dead shortly before 6 a.m. yesterday, hanging inside the toilet of his detention cell at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group-Central Visayas (CIDG-7) headquarters.

Tied around his neck was a nylon cord that held a curtain that used to hang on the window of his cell. His underwear was stuffed inside his mouth while his legs were tied with a piece of cloth.

Police authorities said Alacre gagged himself so he could not shout and tied his legs so he could not move.

His body was discovered after CIDG-7 policemen brought Alacre's brother-in-law, Ruben Ago, 23, to his cell so they could meet.

SPO3 Reynaldo Apostol, the only policeman inside the headquarters early yerterday, said he did not notice anything unusual. Apostol was left by himself to man the office as the other CIDG personnel were in the pier to fetch Ago who was tagged as Alacre's companion in the killings.

Ago was arrested Sunday in Manukan town, Zamboanga del Norte, and was bought to Cebu City on board a commercial vessel.

Alacre's body was discovered only after the CIDG arresting team came with Ago. Policemen immediately rushed Alacre to the government-run Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center but doctors declared him dead on arrival.

Police dismissed the possibility of foul play on Alacre's death.

Supt. Edwin Diocos, CIDG-7 chief, said Alacre had suicidal tendencies, citing a suicide note found inside his wallet shortly after his arrest on Friday in Barangay Lupasang, Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte.

But Diocos admitted that his men committed "small negligence" because they failed to remove the curtain inside Alacre's detention cell.

He said he had earlier ordered his men to remove all items inside the cell that might be used by Alacre to commit suicide. Unfortunately, he added, the curtain was "overlooked."

In the suicide note found in Alacre's wallet on Friday, the suspect denied any involvement in the killing of the Go cousins.

But during police interrogation shortly after his arrest, Alacre reportedly confessed to the crime. He allegedly said he and Ago initially planned to only rob the Filmon Hardware Showroom,' owned by the Gos, but were surprised to find out that there was only P700 inside the store.

Alacre told police that John Clemens, 19, was killed after he tried to fight back. The victim's neck was stabbed and slashed.

Brian, 27, was also killed when he tried to shout for help when they heard somebody knocking on the store's glass door, Alacre was quoted by police as saying during interrogation. The suspects strangled Brian using a necktie.

But Alacre pointed to his companion as the one who killed Brian and John Clemens.

But during police interrogation yesterday, Ago said it was Alacre, not him, who killed the Go cousins. He said Alacre even forced him to do the crime.

Ago said he left Zamboanga del Norte and went to Cebu City with Alacre on May 28, hoping to find a job.

The next day, he added, he accompanied Alacre to the Filmon Hardware along Escario Street. When they arrived at the store, he claimed, he was surprised to see Alacre pulling out a gun and ordering the people inside the store to drop to the floor.

Ago said Alacre also poked the gun at him and ordered him to tie the Go cousins and everyone at the store.

After killing the Go cousins, he added, Alacre left him inside the store to escape on board Brian's car with 12-year-old Karen as hostage.

Police later found Karen inside the car abandoned by the suspects a few meters from the store.

Ago said he just took a taxi to the port where he spent the night. The next day, he boarded an inter-island vessel for Zamboanga del Norte.

DOT credits Aga for boost in Baguio City tourism

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

AGA MULACH
CHARLENE GONZALES

ACTOR Aga Muhlach, wife Charlene Gonzales and Sen. Loren Legarda made up a celebrity team that not only planted trees in Legarda's Forest Park at Camp John Hay in Baguio but also helped boost tourist arrivals in the country's summer capital.

BAGUIO CITY—Summer has been inexplicably good to Baguio City despite six months of grueling national scandals, a president's ouster and a Malacañang riot that would have convinced most Filipino tourists to stay home.

But left with no simple explanation for this "phenomenal summer run" in Baguio, tourism officials have been crediting an unlikely "attraction": actor Aga Muhlach.

Muhlach's much publicized wedding here with former beauty queen and actress Charlene Gonzales on May 28 could have boosted domestic tourism when it was announced as early as February, a Department of Tourism official said on Thursday.

A DOT report showed that almost 300,000 domestic and foreign visitors endured the seven-hour road trip to the summer capital from January to March alone this year, a robust 14.67 percent increase compared to last year's number of visitors.

The trend was sustained throughout April and in early May when 11,225 tourists arrived here and in the Cordillera, Edgar Jularbal of DOT Cordillera said.

This was unexpected but was a "welcome surprise" for the DOT here, Jularbal said, adding that Baguio is again bracing for a fallout from the Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis now enveloping Basilan and Palawan.

"(The summer report shows) a phenomenal increase, which was sustained until the end of April and (in the) early part of May, because (the) DOT did not anticipate this increase. The impeachment trial, the Edsa II and the May 1 riots were all reasons to stay in bed. But people still came, so one of the factors could be Aga," he noted.

The celebrity wedding gave Baguio a "*masa* (grassroots)" draw it could not otherwise provide, despite its reputation of being the country's traditional summer destination, Jularbal said.

Summer 2001 in Baguio was peppered with high-profile conferences, the series of Philippine Military Academy activities, and its fifth flower festival, which drew 285,230 visitors to local hotels here, the DOT said.

The foreign visitors provided DOT new insights into a shift in trends, however. "Foreign tourists (traveling to Baguio or the Cordillera) have slowed down since 1999, by 8 percent, so we did not expect that much increase this year. Yet in the first three months of 2001, we received 9,138 foreign travelers compared to 7,640 last year. That is very good," Jularbal said.

But the unexpected tourism boom could also be explained by last year's Sipadan hostage crisis, he said. DOT and Baguio Tourism Council officials said the terror spawned by the Abu Sayyaf's abduction of tourists in Sulu last year could persuade foreign tourists to try mountain trekking in Luzon instead.

Forty percent of foreign tourists are drawn to pristine beachfronts and exotic cultures in the Southern Philippines, where the bandit group had been operating.

Gloria ally vows to start bid to amend Constitution

By Nagiel B. Banacia
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Sen. Franklin Drilon, an ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, vowed to revive moves to amend the Constitution and is expected to clash with forces that are opposed to tinkering with the Charter.

Drilon said as soon as the new Congress opens, he would introduce a bill that would call for a constitutional convention.

Among the provisions Drilon said he wants changed include the process of selecting members of the judiciary and one that would increase the terms of office of local elective officials and one that would allow the election of senators by region.

Drilon said the provisions on the economy would also need amendments because these are protectionist measures.

"There is a great need to review the basic economic principles under the Constitution to make the country competitive in the world economy," said Drilon.

The senator suggested that to save money, the election for delegates to the convention could be held during the barangay elections next year.

"Government has no money. So, it would be better to jointly hold the elections of ConCon delegates during the barangay elections," he said.

"It is about time that we… have a second look (at) our Constitution. We don't want the Constitution to stand against the country's development," he added.

Drilon said his experience during the last elections convinced him to work for changes in the Constitution.

He said the election for senators must be conducted by region because it has become so costly for candidates. The regions also needed representation in the Senate.

Drilon said he also favored extending the terms of office of local officials because a "three-year term is just too short for local officials."

The senator did not, however, say how long the terms of local officials should be.

Drilon said the process of selecting judges should also be changed because he has received several complaints that there have been no opportunities to screen nominees for judges.

"There is lack of information on who are nominated to become judges," he said.

Cell phones top pick of thieves

LUCENA CITY—At least six media men here have lost their cellular phones to snatchers during the past several days.

However, the victims who all requested anonymity, did not bother to report the thefts to the police to avoid being the "butt of jokes" of their peers and the police.

Two of the victims are a publisher-editor of a community paper and a columnist of a local journal.

Their units were snatched while they were inside the Ocean Palace Mall here.

A radio reporter lost her Nokia 3210 at the public market.

A correspondent of a Manila-based broadsheet lost his Nokia 5110 inside a jeepney.

"I was sandwiched by two burly men, and one of their accomplices in front distracted me," he recalled.

Supt. Federico Terte, Lucena City police chief, said only two incidents of cell phone snatching were reported since last month.

"If the victims could relate to us information surrounding the theft, we can establish the pattern, the modus operandi of the perpetrators to help us in the apprehension of the suspects," Terte said.

He said some of the phone owners could have just lost their units.

"One of my cops was able to return a cell phone to its owner after it was brought to him by the finder," he told the Inquirer.

He said he has sent police operatives to the streets and school premises yesterday. ***Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Good Samaritans reply to girl's plea for help

By Hazel Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Good Samaritans have come to the rescue of 3-year-old Antonia Precious Marie Jamadre, the child with multiple congenital defects who urgently needs a surgery to live longer.

At least two readers of the Inquirer came forward to help after reading Antonia's struggle to live with the help of her adoptive mother in the Inquirer Visayas on June 2.

One of Antonia's serious congenital defects is Patent Ductus Arteriosus or PDA—a blood vessel in the heart that did not close after she was born. An operation that will cost from P150,000 to P200,000 is urgently needed to avoid complications that could cost Antonia's life.

Readers touched by Antonia's story have offered to raise funds for Antonia's trip to Manila. They have also coordinated with a team of doctors from different hospitals in Metro Manila who have already agreed to operate on Antonia for free.

Mila Abad, a widow and native of Bacolod City, and Chit Lijauco, lifestyle editor of the Manila Times, said Saturday that they have started a fund campaign among their friends for Antonia's medication and accommodation while undergoing treatment in Manila.

"The doctors, including an anesthesiologist are ready to perform the operation except that we have yet to get the heart surgeon from the Philippine Heart Center to join the team," Abad told the Inquirer on Saturday by phone.

Cebu Pacific, through Abad's efforts, has agreed to shoulder the plane fare to fly Antonia, her adoptive mother Letty Jamandre and a doctor to Manila anytime this week when all other arrangements have been finalized.

Businessman Norman Holer, an Inquirer reader from Antique, also told the Inquirer on Saturday that he has sent text messages to a relative with friends at the Philippine Heart Center to help Antonia.

Abad and Lijauco have been soliciting help via text messages to help Antonia. Readers who might want to help can get in touch with Abad through cell phone No. 09178493160.

Pediatric cardiologist Dr. Rosemarie Custronuevo, who has been attending to Antonia, told Antonia's adoptive mother that all the child needs is a "relatively simple operation" that would close the PDA through an incision in her left underarm.

But the cost of the operation is beyond the reach of Letty Jamandre, 57, a public school teacher at the Iloilo National High School.

COMMUNIST FEUD

Cops accused of pitting rebels vs rebels

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The communist Rebolusyonaryong Hukbong Bayan said police in Central Luzon have been adding fuel to the tension between it and its rival group, the New People's Army.

RHB spokesperson Red Olalia issued the statement over the weekend in reaction to a claim made by Supt. Perfecto Palad, Bataan police chief, that the June 1 encounter in Hermosa town between the NPA and government troopers occurred on the heels of tips provided by the RHB.

"This oft-repeated line by (the) Central Luzon police is (meant) to sow more bloody conflicts between RHB and NPA," Olalia said in a statement given reporters covering Camp Olivas, the regional police center.

The police, according to him, had used this "cheap psy-war gimmick" since the NPA admitted killing Bartolome "Ka Jobay" Quizon, RHB's chief military cadre, last December.

The killing of Quizon occurred three years after he and seven other Central Luzon cadres bolted the Communist Party of the Philippines and formed the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the RHB, amid claims of irreconcilable ideological differences.

Until February, the RHB has executed at least four people who, Olalia said, led to the NPA's surveillance work on Quizon.

In the light of 10 fierce skirmishes between the NPA and state soldiers since late January, the Commission on Human Rights and the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan Central Luzon chapter urged the peace panel to declare a ceasefire in the region as well as in Aurora province.

Rising tension among the rebels, the Philippine Army, Air Force and the police "might adversely affect" the peace negotiations between representatives of the Macapagal administration and the National Democratic Front, according to CHR Chair Aurora Navarrete-Recina.

The gunfights saw nearly 50 guerrillas and Air Force personnel killed and at least five soldiers wounded.

"Government troops will have to defend themselves when attacked. It will be best if they (the NPA and government troops) try to avoid encounters," Recina told the Inquirer.

Roman Polintan, Bayan-CL chair, said government offensives against communist rebels were hurting civilians.

The May 28 clash in Tarlac, for instance, had killed three civilians, one of whom was a Methodist pastor, according to the human rights advocate group Karapatan.

Army Col. Artemio Alegado told Recina that all the clashes were "legitimate encounters, evident in the (number) of high-powered firearms seized from the rebels."

In Aurora, which is under the operational control of the Philippine Army and the police in Northern and Central Luzon, Karapatan claimed a "massive deployment of troops."

In Aurora right now are an Army battalion, two police companies and a unit of the regional mobile group, 196 militiamen and a platoon of Special Cafgu Active Auxiliary.

"This massive troop deployment is unjustified," Karapatan said in a complaint it filed that listed six cases of alleged human rights violations by government troops assigned to the province.

Col. Herbert Yambing, Army commanding officer in Aurora, denied the allegations of Karapatan. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Hagedorn to help victims of Sayyaf

PUERTO Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn yesterday ordered assistance to be provided to the families of two Dos Palmas employees executed by Abu Sayyaf bandits as he condemned the killings of his constituents.

In a statement, Hagedorn said the city will transport the remains of slain cook Sonny Daquer and security guard Armando Bayona to the city. Daquer's remains will also be brought to his birthplace in Tumarbong, Roxas.

Hagedorn said the city will also extend educational assistance to Daquer's two children. Daquer's widow, who is expecting a third child, will also be provided medical and hospitalization assistance, Hagedorn said.

He said he is coordinating with the Dos Palmas management for the possible employment of Daquer's widow and Bayona's relatives as both are their families' breadwinners.

Polls show male bias in Cordillera

BY FRANK CIMATU
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—There are fewer women elected in the Cordillera in the last elections than in previous elections. So who would espouse so-called women's issues like reproductive health and family welfare?

"In that case, we should start teaching the males," said Edna Tabanda, Benguet vice governor-elect.

"We had a hard time bringing women to politics so the only logical thing to (do is to) convince the male politicians to take on reproductive health and family planning."

Tabanda was among the pioneers of the Strengthening Women through Empowerment in the Local Level (Swell) in the Cordillera.

The Swell program was set up to make more women interested in politics.

One of the successful graduates is Concepcion Balao, who was elected mayor of Atok, Benguet.

Other than Tabanda and Balao, there were no other top-level women politicians in Benguet.

Magdalena Pitas lost in her reelection bid as mayor of Sablan town.

The United Nations Development Fund for Women said before the May 14 elections, the Philippines ranked fifth among Asia-Pacific nations in the percentage of seats in national parliaments with 12.9 percent. Vietnam leads the region with 26 percent, followed by China, 21.8 percent; Laos, 21.2 percent and the People's Republic of Korea, 20.1 percent.

The UN agency said unless women gain leadership, it would be difficult to transform or shape forces to work in favor of women and gender equality.

The percentage of national parliamentarians in Northern Luzon will decline with two women first-timers relinquishing their seats to their husbands: Ilocos Sur's Grace Singson to Eric Singson, and Quirino's Angela Cua to Junie Cua.

Mt. Province Rep. Josephine Dominguez stepped down for husband Victor, who lost to cousin Roy Pilando. Abra Gov. Ma. Zita Valera handed her seat to Luis Bersamin only to become Bangued mayor while her husband Vicente Valera ran and won as governor.

Ifugao Rep. Benjamin Cappleman made his wife Evangeline run for congressman but she lost to neophyte Solomon Chungalao. Apayao's Bambi Perez is losing in the still unaccounted race against Rep. Elias K. Bulut Sr.

In Baguio City, only Vice Mayor-elect Betty Lourdes Tabanda survived the male juggernaut. Despite being the president of the Association of Baguio Women's Clubs, Tabanda was blacklisted by militant women's groups last March for being "anti-women."

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The whole country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 35° Lo 25°	Baguio HI 27° Lo 16°	Tuguegarao HI 35° Lo 23°	Laoag HI 33° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 35° Lo 25°	Tagaytay HI 33° Lo 22°	Legazpi HI 31° Lo 26°	Calapan HI 33° Lo 24°
Bacolod HI 33° Lo 24°	Roxas HI 33° Lo 25°	Cebu HI 33° Lo 26°	Tacloban HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 35° Lo 24°	Zamboanga HI 33° Lo 25°	Cagayan de Oro HI 34° Lo 23°	Davao HI 32° Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/06/05/01

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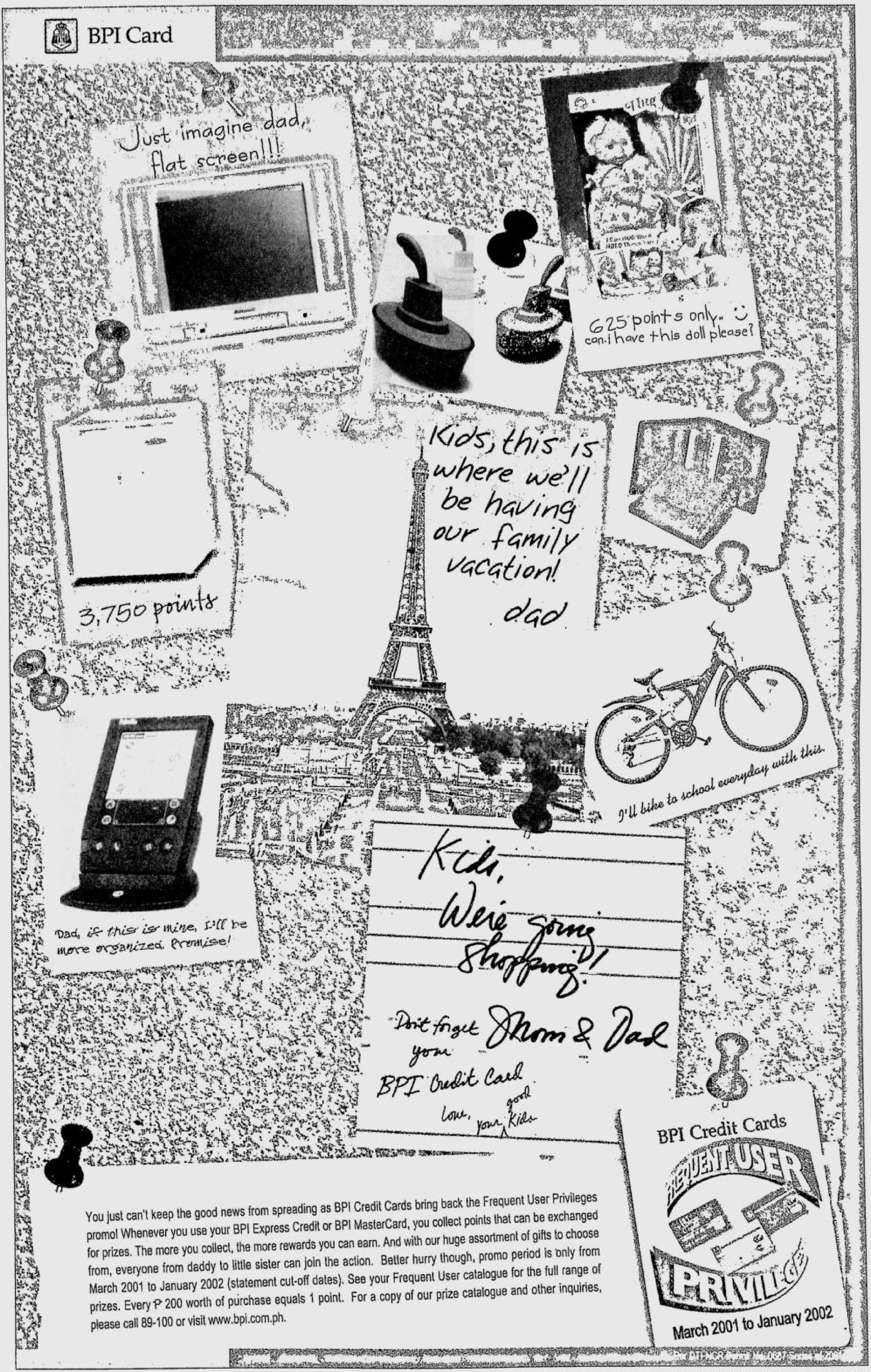
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Military seeks emergency powers vs Abu

(From page A1)

Abu Sayyaf elements but to arrest civilian sympathizers—a network of people providing the kidnappers with refuge, food, transportation and other forms of assistance.

But Adan said the decision whether to declare a state of emergency belonged to Ms Macapagal, not to the military.

"That is a political decision, not a military one. (But) it takes years to solve the problem if the necessary policies are not in place," he said.

At the same time, he contended that it would take "a combination of military and political action to solve an insurgency of this kind, which has metamorphosed into terrorism."

Adan said the bandits were heading to Basilan's southern coast, using a network of sympathizers and supply caches in the sparsely populated jungle.

He said they likely wanted to commandeer fishing boats to flee to Jolo island, their other major base.

He added that the Abu Sayyaf fighters "could be anywhere" because of the protection offered by civilian communities, which he called "terrorist bases."

Implications

But Tiglao pointed out the political and legal implications of declaring a state of emergency.

"A state of emergency entails a lot of restrictions. It has legal implications. Right now, there's a view that might not be at all necessary," he said, adding that the situation called for a military operation rather than a political solution.

"Still, that question is still being evaluated . . . by the political leadership—that's President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in consultation with her advisers," he said.

ID system

Adan said an identification system, a measure which previous administrations failed to pass due to strong public opposition, would help the military isolate the kidnappers.

"Why don't we have an identification system so that when guerrillas arrived, we would be able to check (who was who)? You would know who was in your neighborhood," he said.

He said the kidnappers' escape would be impossible without local support.

"How do you (judge) the terrorist's relative, giving him food, hiding his rifle, giving him shelter?" Adan asked. "He gives the guerrillas strength. Is he innocent? It's something for the nation to discuss."

Adan noted that in countries where there are stringent counter-insurgency laws, "giving support to rebels would be subject to government action."

The military was embarrassed when at least 60 kidnappers, dragging 20 hostages with them, broke through a cordon of troops Sunday and escaped the hospital they had captured the day before in Lamitan town on Basilan island.

Enrile: Yes to martial law

Enrile, ironically both a critic and target of the state of rebellion declared in Metro Manila after Edsa III, proposed martial law as a solution to the problem of the Abu Sayyaf.

"If they really want to settle the issue once and for all and to control the situation without any ifs and buts, they should be ready to (exert) political will and place that area under martial law," he told Senate reporters.

Enrile, who was defense minister under former strongman Ferdinand Marcos, said martial law would enable the government "to control movements of people and resources" in areas of conflict.

A subsequent imposition of a curfew, he said, would restrict movements at night; and civilians who violated the curfew would be "fair target," according to the senator.

But the proposal met strong opposition from his colleagues in the Senate who saw no need to take such drastic action.

Senate President Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said that he would oppose any such move, although he added that Congress would have to consider the proposal if it were made by the Palace.

"My knee-jerk reaction is to oppose the imposition of martial law anywhere in the country," he said.

"But if it is seriously made, we have to look at the basis for such an act because it is also an act that is allowed by the Constitution, provided that the requirements are followed."

Under Section 7 of the Constitution, the President may declare martial law "in case of invasion or rebellion, when the public safety requires it."

The declaration, coupled with the suspension of the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, should not exceed 60 days. The President should submit a report to Congress within 48 hours following its proclamation.

For Sen. Blas Ople, the solution is not martial law, but a "change" of the "incompetent officers on the ground."

Sen. Renato Cayetano, for his part, chided Adan. "I don't think it's necessary. Adan may not know what he's talking about. These are bandits, why use a state of rebellion (sic)?" he asked.

Disgusted mayor

After the May 27 raid on the Dos Palmas resort in Palawan, the hostage takers eluded a massive air and sea search, along with a naval blockade, to reach Basilan.

Clashes began Friday when troops came across the kidnappers and hostages in the jungle. It escalated Saturday when the terrorists captured the 21-bed hospital, sparking intense street fighting.

Under the cover of darkness past midnight Saturday, with fellow gunmen outside the hospital providing diversion, the Abu Sayyaf broke out of the hospital and fled back into the jungle.

Some Lamitan residents continued to criticize the military, claiming the back of the walled hospital and church compound was left unguarded.

"We are disgusted (and want to know) why these people were able to escape," said Lamitan Mayor Inocente Ramos, who was beefing up security yesterday in case the rebels return.

"It was a big opportunity for (the troops) to hit them, but they were able to escape using the back door of the hospital," he added.

But Adan defended his troops, saying that the kidnappers used hostages as human shields, that military reinforcements came under fire as they tried to land at the Lamitan wharf, and that the bandits spread some of their fighters around the town, making one cordon ineffective.

"The back of the hospital is very dense vegetation," Adan said.

"You have zero visibility . . . because of thick bush. It's so difficult to see ahead 20 to 30 meters."

A narrow concrete road runs directly behind the hospital, with a small clearing on the other side, followed by a coconut grove where most of the underbrush consists of knee-high grass. *With a report from the Associated Press*

Bandits, hostages vanish

(From page A1)

sighted in the vicinity of Sitio Upper Canas in Barangay Batu-Batu, Tuburan.

"I'm urging the military to investigate the report," Salapuddin said.

Batu-Batu is 15-20 kilometers from Lamitan. It is also near Barangay Bulanting, site of the first clash between government troops and the bandits on May 31.

Col. Lino Lapinid, spokesperson of the Southern Command media bureau, said the military was verifying the supposed sighting.

The Armed Forces has lost contact with the bandits after their daring breakout from a military cordon in Lamitan midnight of Saturday.

The bandits have vanished together with the nine remaining hostages seized from the Palawan resort of Dos Palmas and 11 new captives taken from the Jose Maria Torres Hospital in Lamitan.

"As of this time, we haven't received any report of contact," said AFP spokesperson Brig. Gen. Edilberto Adan in a briefing yesterday afternoon. "We're still looking for them in the jungles of Basilan."

Five battalions are tracking down the Abu Sayyaf, and, according to Adan, additional battalions from the Zamboanga peninsula and as far as Luzon are being called in.

When government forces first engaged the Abu Sayyaf on June 1 in Tuburan, Adan said the troops would maintain contact and not let go.

Adan declined to categorically answer whether the operations had gone back to square one.

"The hunt continues," he said, and raised the prospect that the bandits might attempt to leave Basilan and reach Jolo.

"They may try to reach the waters, commandeer fishing boats and make a getaway," he said.

'Thanksgiving'

The Associated Press quoted Lamitan police chief Senior Insp. Acmad Dalawis as saying that the bandits and hostages were spotted Sunday on Mt. Sinangkapan in Tuburan, where they rested for several hours and held a traditional Muslim thanksgiving ritual.

"They were happy that they got new hostages, and they celebrated," Dalawis said. "Now they are mobile and appear to be headed for another place."

Dalawis said one of the freed hostages reported overhearing Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya talking on a two-way radio about another attack.

"We have conquered Palawan and Lamitan, and we have one more target," the hostage supposedly quoted Sabaya as saying.

At his briefing for reporters in Camp Aguinaldo, Adan raised suspicions that the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front was aiding the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan.

"In the past, the MILF lent its firearms or even guerrillas to the Abu Sayyaf. So it's possible that the MILF is supporting the Abu Sayyaf. We must remember that in a guerrilla-warfare situation, a hundred or so bandits cannot just move (and) feed themselves without supplies, logistics from other groups," he said.

The MILF, through its spokesperson Eid Kabalu, had earlier denied having anything to do with the bandits.

It had offered its assistance in tracking down the Abu Sayyaf, which it condemned for its un-Islamic practices like kidnapping for ransom

But the government had ignored this offer, with Adan warning that the MILF may have other objectives.

Adan yesterday said that in the past, the MILF was monitored to have provided logistics and guerrilla support to the Abu Sayyaf in Tuburan, a known MILF stronghold in Basilan.

He said the alleged MILF assistance could perhaps explain why the military sometimes gave varying figures of the armed men with whom government forces had come into contact.

"There are occasions when we see only 30-50, and then there will be 200," Adan said. "Where will those 200 come from?"

He pointed out that "sometimes, (the MILF and Abu Sayyaf) merge, and after achieving their objective, they separate."

But in Digos City, Kabalu appealed anew to the international media not to demonize Islam by associating it with the activities of the Abu Sayyaf.

Kabalu said there had been no problem lately with the local media, "particularly the INQUIRER," because the Abu Sayyaf was being clearly identified as "a plain bandit group (that) has nothing to do with the Moro rebellion."

However, he said, news organizations based in other countries, including wire agencies, had continued to associate the Abu Sayyaf with Islam or Muslims.

"That is very sad because it tends to sow more dissension between Christians and Muslims of the world," he said.

According to Kabalu, Reuters describes the Abu Sayyaf as "Muslim rebels"; Associated Press, "Islamic extremists" or "Moro separatists", and Agence France Presse, "Muslim extremists."

He said the coverage of these wire agencies were "too wide to be ignored," and that their style had only fueled hatred against Muslims in other parts of the world.

He said the MILF would send protests to the head offices of these wire agencies.

Vegetation

Adan sought to explain why the bandits were able to breach the military cordon in Lamitan by saying that they used the bushy backyard of the town hospital.

"At the back of the hospital compound is dense vegetation," he said. "The visibility after a few meters is zero."

He also denied reports that Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadafy Janjalani was killed and Sabaya wounded in the fighting.

Adan said the bandits moved to Lamitan not only to secure medical supplies and treatment for their wounded but also "to make a statement."

"They wanted the world to know. But they were placed at a tactical disadvantage," he said

But Lamitan residents expressed disappointment over the military's failure to crush the Abu Sayyaf.

Sari-sari storeowner Celestina Ibno said she was angered that her daughter's house was riddled with bullets and howitzer bombs, yet not a single Abu Sayyaf commander was arrested or killed

But she expressed sympathy for the 13 soldiers and militiamen who died in the fighting at Lamitan.

Another resident, who asked to be identified only as Mr. Paule, said. "There were five armored vehicles. There were troops and several allied forces. Yet they did not neutralize these bandits. There's something wrong somewhere, and military officials should investigate this."

Periana Isic said it would have been all right even if her two-story residence was damaged, "as long as these bandits were arrested."

But Maj. Eliseo Cumpued of the 18th Infantry Battalion said they also had to consider the lives of the hostages and other civilians.

Police chief Dalawis said at least 15 houses were damaged by the ground and air assault.

Governor Akbar blamed the failure of the military operation on Col. Jovenal Narcise, acting commander of the 103rd Army Brigade, who, he said, should have coordinated with the local officials, militiamen and civilians

"Just think of this. In the jungle, the bandits were able to elude the military. Now, in an urban area like Lamitan, they still managed to escape," Akbar said.

"They can recruit more followers. They will become aggressive and they might be laughing at us. I think the government should consider the voice of the people here before trying to solve the Sayyaf menace," he added.

But Salapuddin said Akbar should not blame the military for the bandits' escape

"It is (Akbar's) responsibility to help the government in this crisis that is affecting not only the province of Basilan but also the entire country," he said.

Soldiers

Some of the soldiers wounded in the Lamitan fighting were airlifted to Metro Manila on Sunday and were met by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Yesterday, Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said her moments with the soldiers bolstered her determination to resolve the crisis.

"She was very touched . . . and instead of weakening, she has doubled her resolve to settle this problem," Tiglao said.

He also said the President had ordered the release of funds for soldiers killed and wounded in the fighting.

According to Tiglao, the families of those killed will receive P100,000, those with serious wounds, P50,000 and those with minor injuries P25,000.

Philippine National Police Director General Leandro Mendoza confirmed that the government had organized a team of negotiators to deal with the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have negotiators now. They are well-trained negotiators and coming from the PNP," Mendoza said in an interview in Zamboanga City Sunday night

He stressed that the negotiators were assigned "to maintain open lines between the kidnappers and the government," and not to discuss ransom payments. *With reports from Martin P. Marfil in Manila; Allan A. Nawal, Ayan C. Mellejor and Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Amanpulo was original target

BY JULIET L. JAVELLANA

THE ABU Sayyaf's original target in Palawan was Amanpulo, which, at $500 a day, is considered the most expensive—and most beautiful—resort in the country.

"We don't know why they ended up in Dos Palmas instead," a top government official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

But three days before they abducted three Americans and 17 Filipinos from Dos Palmas on May 27, the bandits were already in Puerto Princesa City.

"The report was that their P2 million *kumpit* (speedboat) was docked in Puerto Princesa three days before, and when (Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu) Sabaya came, he just gave one word and the operation was over in seven minutes," said the source, who was privy to military operations against the bandit group.

The source noted that the bandits apparently knew their targets. But the source would not say if the bandits had an informer or were actually able to enter the resort to spy.

The source said as many as 27 men were seen on board the *kumpit* three days before the hostage taking, but were not accosted by authorities because they were disguised as fishermen and the boat's Volvo engine was carefully hidden from view.

With the Volvo engine, the boat reportedly has a speed of 40 knots as compared to Navy boats' 25 knots.

"(The operation) was really planned. It took months to plan. This cannot be done by any other group," the source said.

According to the resort's brochure, Amanpulo means "Peaceful Island."

"More than a beach-resort, Amanpulo is a splendid refuge from too much reality, a tropical island to lose yourself in," it said.

Amanpulo is located on the private island of Pamalican in Cuyo, north of Palawan. Guests arrive by chartered plane on the island's 1.2-kilometer runway.

Congress passes power reform bill

(From page A1)

tives ratified the bill hours after the four-day special session had lapsed, triggering accusations that its approval was railroaded.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile was the only one who voted against the ratification of the bill, which he said would "bring unimaginable hardship to our people, electric power consumers and the nation at large."

Sen. Vicente Sotto abstained from voting because of his "numerous apprehensions" on the measure, which seeks to restructure the power industry and sell the debt-laden National Power Corp.

Voting for the ratification were Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta, Robert Barbers, Anna Dominique "Nikki" Coseteng, Renato Cayetano, Franklin Drilon, John Osmeña, Sergio Osmeña III, Ramon Revilla, Juan Flavier, Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Blas Ople, Francisco Tatad and Aquilino Pimentel Jr.

Unable to vote were Senators Rodolfo Biazon, Loren Legarda-Leviste, Robert Jaworski, Miriam Defensor-Santiago and Gregorio Honasan, who were absent in yesterday's session.

Three senators abroad

Biazon, Legarda and Jaworski are out of the country.

Most of the senators who voted for the ratification—Magsaysay, Cayetano, the Osmeña cousins—said they did so because they were for Napocor's privatization.

The privatization of Napocor will lead to the restructuring of the power industry into four sectors—generation, distribution, transmission and supply.

The generation and distribution sectors will be open to competition while the proposed National Transmission Corp. will handle the transmission sector.

Under the bill, the government will assume P200 billion of Napocor's financial obligations because proceeds from its sale will not be enough to cover its debts.

Although the bill promises to reduce the cost of electricity, consumers will be made to pay a universal levy to pay for the balance of Napocor's obligations.

Oreta initially said she wanted to "shoot down" the approval of the bill but said she decided to give it a chance after being assured safeguards would "cure the menace that were in."

Barbers said the law would mean progress for the country because it would attract investors to the power industry.

Coseteng said her vote was "not a blind *yes*" as she would demand that those responsible be made to answer for the onerous contracts of the independent power producers (IPPs) and Napocor's debts.

Flavier had initial doubts about the bill but said he changed his mind after most of his doubts were cleared.

Ople said he was for the bill's passage because it would create a "stronger" body that would regulate the power industry.

He was referring to the Energy Regulatory Commission, which will replace the present Energy Regulatory Board.

During the session, Enrile grilled John Osmeña, chair of the Senate bicameral conference committee that tackled the power bill, about several issues with the "fervent hope" that the incoming senators would be guided.

"I vote no to this bill because it's deceptive. It gives false hope to our people that their lives would improve. This bill is not well studied and is being rammed down our throats without the necessary safeguards," Enrile said in explaining his vote.

Enrile expressed the hope that the incoming senators would be able to "carry on the task of the Filipino people and would be able to find real champions for their causes."

Enrile's last stand

The session became an occasion for Enrile to concede defeat in the May 14 elections as he noted that his vote last night may be "perhaps his last stand" in the Senate.

Enrile ranked No. 14 in the Commission on Elections canvassing of votes in the senatorial race.

The bill's proponent, John Osmeña, said the passage of the bill would pave the way for Napocor to be privatized in five years and allow electricity rates to go down.

He said the ratification of the bill would have a "fiscal impact" on the government as this would stop the heavy losses Napocor was incurring.

Napocor is losing P9 billion a year, according to Osmeña.

Civil society groups found an unlikely ally in Enrile with the way he questioned Osmeña.

Enrile for instance asked why the bill wanted the national government to allot P200 billion in assuming part of Napocor's stranded debts, which only amounts to P61.2 billion.

Of Napocor's $6.77 billion in stranded debts, $5.6 billion will be covered by the proceeds from the sale of its assets, leaving $1.2 billion or P61.2 billion for the national government to assume, according to Enrile.

He said he wanted to know where the bill got the P200-billion allocation as he expressed reservations on the foreign consultancy firm that was hired by the government to study the privatization of Napocor.

Enrile revealed that Credit Suisse First Boston, the foreign consultancy firm hired by the Department of Finance to study Napocor's privatization, based its studies on limited information and had even urged the need for more a "detailed long term assessment."

Enrile was able to elicit from Osmeña that the ADB and Eximbank would release $950 million in loans to the government after the power bill was approved.

A total of $400 million can be used by the National Treasury for budget needs while the rest will finance projects to rehabilitate the industry.

Abus rode slow boat to Basilan, say fishermen

(From page A1)

Basilan on June 2. Traveling in an Air Force Nomad plane and a Navy Islander, they arrived home here the next day

Rear Adm. Rodolfo Rabago, chief of the Western Command, and Brig. Gen. Felipe Gaerlan, commander of the 570th Composite Tactical Wing, presented Rayla and his companions—Roland Rayla, Celso Cabigao, Baldones Gonzaga, Romulo, Henry and Romeo Ollabe, Rodolfo Campos and Reynaldo and Anias Conales—to the media.

After being shown pictures of the bandits, Rayla identified Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya as the leader of the group

This was how Rayla narrated their weeklong ordeal:

Early on May 27 the fishermen learned from radio reports that the Abu Sayyaf had attacked the Dos Palmas resort, and even anticipated that the bandits' *kumpit* would head in their direction.

True enough, the bandits stopped near their fishing boat about 1 p.m. and asked if they could take some of the passengers in the *kumpit*. Seven armed men then got on board.

Sabaya was wearing camouflage pants and a black long-sleeved shirt.

After a while, the kumpit ran out of fuel and all of its passengers transferred to the fishing boat.

Bandits and hostages reached Kinapusan Island in Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi and stayed there awhile. They left the island around 10 p.m. on May 28, and reached Basilan on May 31.

1 small plane

Rayla said that during the long journey, sailing at a speed of about eight knots, the group saw only a single small airplane.

"We cooked for (the bandits) and for the hostages. We gave them food because if not, our lives would have been in danger. The Abu Sayyaf seemed happy with our presence because they had food to eat," he said in Filipino.

Rayla said he spoke with some of the Dos Palmas hostages.

"I asked them if they were treated well, and the hostages said yes. We agreed that if we came out safe from this kidnapping, we would have a reunion in Palawan," he said.

Reynaldo Conales said the two American missionaries, Martin and Gracia Burnham, prayed and sang quietly in a corner of the boat.

According to the fishermen, Sabaya and another bandit leader were always calling someone on a cell phone.

Rayla said that when Sabaya called a radio station in Zamboanga City and announced that the hostages had been taken to Basilan and Sulu, the group was still in Cagayan de Tawi-Tawi.

He said Sabaya only wanted to mislead the military.

Rayla said Sabaya had told them that they would be set free if the group reached Basilan safely.

Upon arrival in Basilan, the bandits sank the MB June II. Then the group trekked to the mountains and stayed there for two days

"We were tied to a big tree in a place called Batu-bato before the Abu Sayyaf and the hostages went down on board a jeep to Lamitan. Later on, some civilian residents rescued us," Rayla said.

Grief

But while the fishermen's families are joyful, the families of Dos Palmas security guard Reynaldo Bayona and kitchen staff Sonny Daquer, who were both executed by the Abu Sayyaf, are overwhelmed with grief.

They are hoping against hope that the corpses found in Lamitan, Basilan are not those of their loved ones.

"I cannot accept that my son is dead," said Armando's mother Lolita between sobs.

But Armando's brother Paquito said he was not surprised at what had happened.

"I told my parents that only two people will be sacrificed by the Abu Sayyaf after the President's announcement that there will be no ransom and no negotiation," he said in Filipino. "Now my fear has come true."

Paquito appealed to the government to intensify operations against the bandits.

"I just hope government troops will wipe out these bandits after what they did to my brother and Sonny. If not many people will be killed and they will do it again and again," he said.

Francisco Bayona has accepted his son's fate. "We cannot do anything. Let's just put this in God's hands," he said.

Armando was to turn 29 on June 15. He was to marry his girlfriend, Cecile Paduga, a fellow employee at Dos Palmas, this month.

Armando was one of the original security guards of Dos Palmas, where his romance with Cecile first bloomed.

Sonny Daquer's wife, Joveline (not Josephine, as earlier reported), is six months pregnant with their third child and inconsolable.

She recounted how excited Sonny was over their new baby. "He promised to work hard to support our growing family," she said.

Ben Daquer lamented that his brother was a victim and did not have anything to do with the bandits.

PDI starts 'New Paper' recycling drive today

(From page A1)

You can bring your old newspapers and tabloids to the FEP Printing Press loading dock at 3817 Mascardo Street behind the INQUIRER building on Chino Roces Avenue, Makati. Newspapers will be accepted from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on weekdays and from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturdays.

If you have piled up 200 kilos or more of old newspapers and you want us to pick them up, you can call 897-8808 local 209 or 238.

The "New Paper" drive, which will run until September 2001, aims to address the environmental and economic challenges facing the country and its local newspaper industry.

According to the Philippine Environmental Quality Report, the country's rainforests have been steadily shrinking over the last century.

In 1903, there were more than 21 million hectares of forest cover in the Philippines, more than half of the country's total land area. Today, there are less than six million hectares of forest left, according to the Forest Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Paper production, which consumes about 10 to 17 trees for every ton of paper produced, is a principal contributing factor to deforestation.

Its consumption of large amounts of chlorine not only creates toxic fumes but also releases into the environment various carcinogenic compounds, such as dioxins, which have been linked to reduced reproductivity and genetic damage in humans.

While the INQUIRER has made an effort to help reduce environmental pollutants through the use of 100 percent recycled newsprint and soy-based ink, this effort has not been enough to curb the growing environmental problems in the country.

"Through this drive, we hope to promote environmental consciousness and encourage people to take an active role in solid waste management," said INQUIRER President Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez. "It is better to recycle than to cut down trees," she added.

Through the recycling of paper, local paper manufacturers will be able to offset the use of virgin wood pulp by maximizing the use of this valuable natural resource.

Studies reveal that when paper is recycled, up to 70 percent less energy is used than if paper is made from virgin wood fiber. In fact, recycling one ton of paper can substitute for three tons of virgin wood fiber and can save energy equivalent to 380 gallons of oil.

In the area of newsprint, about 19,834 tons are used every year for the production of newspapers. However, only 5 percent of the newsprint are recycled, prompting local paper manufacturers to import 95 percent of the raw material needed for the production of local newsprint every year.

Because of this, the local newspaper industry has become vulnerable to fluctuations in international newsprint prices. The tripling of international newsprint prices last year, for instance, affected the production costs of various newspapers.

More than saving trees and reducing costs, however, the New Paper drive also aims to reduce the amount of waste going to disposal sites.

Since the Payatas tragedy, the mismanagement of waste and the excessive use of landfills for garbage have posed a threat to the environment and to the living conditions of the poor.

A three-year report for the Metro Manila Development Authority by the Japan International Cooperation Agency reveals that of Metro Manila's total garbage output, only 4 percent are recycled, 6 percent are disposed by residents within their own homes, while the rest are discarded outside the home. Of the 90 percent that go out, 35 percent are dumped illegally on vacant lots, sidewalks, canals, or rivers.

Through the INQUIRER'S newspaper drive, efforts to reduce the use of virgin pulp and to encourage proper waste management will be augmented.

"I think everyone should do his or her part to contribute to our waste management efforts," Ms Prieto-Romualdez stressed.

"This newspaper drive not only stresses the importance of recycling but also gives people the chance to raise money from selling something they would have just thrown away. I would like to encourage schools, parishes, foundations and companies to take this up as a fundraising activity—a minimum effort with maximum results."

Roco gives free lecture to Korina

(From page A1)

Korina Sanchez, no less.

Sanchez fumed during a heated exchange with Roco during her dzMM radio program "Korina sa Umaga" after Roco took her to task for saying that he failed to implement his order prohibiting public elementary and high schools from collecting fees during enrollment.

At some points during the interview with the DECS secretary, the agitated Sanchez had even raised her voice, but Roco remained calm.

Sanchez and her guest, Raymund Villanueva of the Alliance of Concerned Teachers, were discussing Roco's order banning the collection of fees in public schools during enrollment. They were talking about complaints that the order was not being complied with by some school principals and district supervisors.

Roco was making the rounds of Metro Manila schools when Sanchez and Villanueva were having their discussion. He stopped his car and placed a call to the radio station and was put on the air.

Roco said Sanchez was being "unfair" in her pronouncements that the DECS was not implementing the order he issued two weeks ago. He pointed out that it was the first time the DECS had actually tried to implement the law.

"You listen to me first, Korina, because you had been saying that you wanted to hear from me, and you made me wait for 40 minutes . . . It is the Constitution that mandates that (prohibition on fee collection). It is only now that the DECS is trying to implement the law, and I think many people are thankful for that," Roco said.

He chided Sanchez for accusing him of failing to provide Filipinos a truly free public school education.

"Your slip is showing, Madame Korina," Roco said.

This incensed Sanchez further. She said it was Roco who refused to listen to what she had actually said before he called up her program.

Sanchez said Roco was "allergic" to the word "failure," implying that the education secretary could not bear to be held responsible for the non-compliance of certain schools to his order.

"Who are supposed to be implementing this? Isn't it the DECS should be implementing this?" Sanchez asked.

"So some failed to implement. Whether it is disobedience or outright negligence, it is still failure to implement, correct?" she pointed out.

She then asked ACT's Villanueva if it were not true that she was even defending Roco earlier during the program.

Sanchez said the problem with Roco was that he "could not tell the difference" between "reporting" and "accusing." She said she never accused Roco but was only reporting complaints from the public.

She said Roco was "misinformed" and "rude" for calling up her program and then "telling me off." She added that the education secretary was "not professional."

Roco, a two-term senator and a candidate during the 1998 presidential election, noted that Sanchez "seem(ed) to be upset."

"The problem with you, Korina, is that you want to have a free press, but you cannot take it when you're the one being criticized," Roco said at one point.

In between comments by Sanchez, Roco explained that the DECS involves the directors, superintendents and principals. He admitted that some principals did not obey his order not to collect fees during enrollment.

"We hold the principals accountable," he said.

(Roco yesterday suspended two regional directors and two principals from Southern Tagalog and Western Visayas for their deliberate refusal to implement the DECS order.)

Sources said Sanchez reprimanded her staff for getting Roco on the air instead of the DECS undersecretaries that she preferred to interview to get the DECS' side on the issue.

DzMM later called up Education Undersecretary Ramon Bacani for further comment, but Bacani refused to be interviewed after listening to the verbal tussle between Roco and Sanchez.

Villanueva, who described his position during the heated exchange as "very awkward," said the problem between Roco and Sanchez might have been triggered by their differing standpoints on the issue of failure to implement the order.

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ORIGIN: MANILA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
CEBU	5J - 557	Daily	0150	0300	P2,608	P2,049
	5J - 559	Daily	0500	0610	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 561	Daily	0700	0810		
	5J - 563	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 565	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 567	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 569	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 571	Daily	1700	1810		
DAVAO	5J - 961	Daily	0430	0610	P3,307	P2,919
	5J - 963	Daily	0700	0840		
	5J - 965	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 567/597*	Daily	1300	1540		
	5J - 967	Daily	1510	1650		
CAGAYAN de ORO	5J - 381	Daily	0510	0635	P3,295	P2,919
	5J - 383	Daily	0930	1055		
	5J - 385	Daily	1100	1225		
TACLOBAN	5J - 651	Daily	0610	0720	P2,718	P2,419
	5J - 655	Daily	1210	1320		
	5J - 657	Daily	1400	1510		
ILOILO	5J - 451	Daily	0505	0605	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 455	Daily	0955	1055		
	5J - 457	Daily	1520	1620		
BACOLOD	5J - 473	M/T/Th/Sat	0510	0610	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 473	W/F/Sun	0620	0720		
	5J - 475	Daily	1000	1100		
	5J - 477	Daily	1330	1430		
	5J - 479	Daily	1630	1730		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 851	Daily	0600	0730	P3,295	P2,639
	5J - 563/431*	M/W/Th/Sat	0900	1215		
ROXAS	5J - 373	Daily	0530	0630	P2,279	P1,979
DUMAGUETE	5J - 627	Daily	1340	1450	P2,608	P2,309
KALIBO	5J - 339	Daily	0900	0950	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 353	Daily	1030	1120		
	5J - 341	Daily	1340	1430		

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CEBU

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 558	Daily	0350	0500	P2,608	P2,049
	5J - 560	Daily	0700	0810	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 562	Daily	0900	1010		
	5J - 564	Daily	1100	1210		
	5J - 566	Daily	1300	1410		
	5J - 568	Daily	1500	1610		
	5J - 570	Daily	1700	1810		
	5J - 572	Daily	1900	2010		
DAVAO	5J - 593	Daily	0800	0850	P2,339	P2,039
	5J - 597	Daily	1450	1540		
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 431	M/W/Th/Sat	1120	1215	P2,388	P2,089
ILOILO	5J - 164	Daily	1750	1825	P1,799	P1,599
BACOLOD	5J - 126	M/T/Th/Sat	0810	0840	P1,599	P1,399
KALIBO	5J - 232	T/F/Sun	1120	1200	P2,339	P2,039

ORIGIN: DAVAO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 962	Daily	0720	0900	P3,307	P2,919
	5J - 594/564*	Daily	0930	1210		
	5J - 964	Daily	1240	1420		
	5J - 966	Daily	1500	1640		
	5J - 968	Daily	1730	1910		
CEBU	5J - 594	Daily	0930	1020	P2,339	P2,039
	5J - 598	Daily	1620	1710		
ILOILO	5J - 598/164*	Daily	1620	1825	P3,295	P2,839
KALIBO	5J - 594/232*	T/F/Sun	0930	1200	P3,588	P2,859
ZAMBOANGA	5J - 393	M/W/F/Sun	0920	1020	P2,388	P2,089
CAGAYAN DE ORO	5J - 182	T/Th/Sat	0920	0955	P2,298	P1,929

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: CAGAYAN DE ORO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 382	Daily	0715	0840	P3,295	P2,919
	5J - 384	Daily	1135	1300		
	5J - 386	Daily	1305	1430		
DAVAO	5J - 181	T/Th/Sat	1035	1110	P2,298	P1,929

ORIGIN: TACLOBAN

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 652	Daily	0800	0910	P2,718	P2,419
	5J - 656	Daily	1400	1510		
	5J - 658	Daily	1550	1700		

ORIGIN: ILOILO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 456	Daily	1135	1235	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 458	Daily	1700	1800		
	5J - 462	Daily	1905	2005		
CEBU	5J - 161	Daily	0645	0720	P1,799	P1,599
DAVAO	5J - 161/593*	Daily	0645	0850	P3,295	P2,839

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: BACOLOD

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 474	M/T/Th/Sat	0930	1030	P2,498	P2,199
	5J - 474	W/F/Sun	0810	0910		
	5J - 476	Daily	1150	1250		
	5J - 478	Daily	1520	1620		
	5J - 480	Daily	1820	1920		
CEBU	5J - 125	M/T/Th/Sat	0700	0730	P1,599	P1,399

ORIGIN: ZAMBOANGA

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 852	Daily	0810	0940	P3,295	P2,639
	5J - 432/568*	M/W/Th/Sat	1255	1610		
CEBU	5J - 432	M/W/Th/Sat	1255	1350	P2,388	P2,089
DAVAO	5J - 394	M/W/F/Sun	1100	1200	P2,388	P2,089

*via Cebu

ORIGIN: ROXAS

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 374	Daily	0710	0810	P2,279	P1,979

ORIGIN: DUMAGUETE

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 628	Daily	1530	1640	P2,608	P2,309

ORIGIN: KALIBO

DESTINATION	FLT NO.	FREQ.	ETD	ETA	ONE-WAY FARES	
					NORMAL	VALUE
MANILA	5J - 340	Daily	1030	1120	P2,608	P2,309
	5J - 354	Daily	1200	1250		
	5J - 342	Daily	1510	1600		
CEBU	5J - 231	T/F/Sun	1250	1330	P2,339	P2,039
DAVAO	5J - 231/597*	T/F/Sun	1250	1540	P3,588	P2,859

*via Cebu

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THREE-PEAT

Woods snatches Memorial plum

DUBLIN, Ohio—Tiger Woods sounded a US Open warning Sunday, firing a six-under-par 66 to claim the $4.1-million Memorial golf tournament for the third straight year.

Never ahead at any point in the first three rounds, Woods nevertheless earned his "three-peat" with a seven-shot victory over third-round leader Paul Azinger and Spain's Sergio Garcia.

It was the fourth US title of 2001 for the world's top-ranked golfer and his fifth victory worldwide. He became the first player to win the same tournament three years in a row since Tom Watson captured the Byron Nelson Classic from 1978-80.

Continuing preparation for his US Open title defense in two weeks in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Woods finished at 17-under 271, two strokes off his winning score here last year.

51-under-par

Woods is 51-under par in his last three appearances at the Jack Nicklaus-designed Muirfield Villege court. He captured his 28th career US PGA title.

"Any tournament that Jack Nicklaus is affiliated with is going to be run with the utmost of integrity and class," Woods said. "To be able to put my name on the trophy three times is awful special."

"I would say he's a clear favorite (at the Open)," Azinger said. "But nobody is going to give it to him. He's going to have to go out and earn it. But right now, he's the man. Right now, he's probably the most dominant athlete in the history of sports."

Last year, Woods became the first player to successfully defend a title at the Memorial and now becomes the first three-time winner of the tournament.

"It feels good to play good when I really needed to," Woods said. "Paul played well all week. I felt I really needed to get off to a good start, which I did. I made some good putts."

Emotional week

It was an emotional week for Azinger, who spoke Wednesday during a pre-tournament tribute to the late Payne Stewart, his close friend.

Azinger, who won the Memorial in 1993, took a one-stroke lead into the final 18 holes after the players completed the third round of the rain-plagued tournament Sunday morning.

But he struggled to a 74 in the final round and lost the lead when Woods eagled the par-five fifth hole.

"I hate that we didn't have a closer fight," said Azinger, whose previous best finish this year was a tie for seventh at the Players Championship. "I even apologized to him (Woods) because I think at this point, he looks so bored, almost.

"I just said, 'Hey, I'm sorry I didn't give you a better game,'" Azinger continued. "We were walking down 17 and I said, 'I'm sorry I wasn't a better player for you today.'"

Garcia, who won his first PGA Tour title two weeks ago at the Colonial, posted a one-under 71 to gain a share of second.

Azinger maintained a one-stroke lead through four holes, but five produced a three-hole swing. Azinger hit his second shot to the par-five hole into the water and took bogey, while Woods eagled it for the second time in the tournament to open a two-shot lead he never relinquished.

"I wanted to give that a go," Azinger said. "I mean 238 (yards) to the front (of the green), downwind. It would have been an easy up and down. I pulled it. I did the same think on Thursday. I think in the end, it was probably a mistake for me to take a crack at that point." *AFP*

Final scores:

271—Tiger Woods 68-69-68-66
278 —Paul Azinger 68-67-69-74, Sergio Garcia (Spa) 68-69-70-71;
279—Stewart Cink 72-69-67-71
280 - Vijay Singh (Fiji) 70-66-73-71, Toru Taniguchi (Jpn) 68-74-69-69
281—Robert Allenby (Aus) 69-69-70-73, Stuart Appleby (Aus) 67-71-69-74, Kenny Perry 72-69-71-69
282—Scott Hoch 70-69-69-74
283—Steve Flesch 72-67-71-73, Fred Funk 71-68-71-73, Lee Janzen 74-71-71-67, Kevin Sutherland 69-72-71-71
284—Fred Couples 72-75-72-65, Charles Howell 73-68-70-73, Peter Lonard (Aus) 75-69-71-69, Gary Nicklaus 72-72-70-70, Jeff Sluman 67-73-73-71
285—Greg Chalmers (Aus) 72-68-71-74, John Cook 72-68-72-73, John Daly 73-68-75-69, Jay Haas 68-76-72-69
286—Joe Ozaki (Jpn) 69-69-74-74
287—Jesper Parnevik (Swe) 68-75-73-71, Grant Waite (Nzl) 68-71-72-76, Mike Weir (Can) 72-69-71-75
288 - Shigeki Maruyama (Jpn) 70-75-70-73
290—David Frost (Rsa) 71-72-75-72
291—Aaron Baddeley (Aus) 71-73-73-74
294—Shingo Katayama (Jpn) 71-76-76-71, Frank Nobilo (Nzl) 73-72-77-72
295—Rory Sabbatini (Rsa) 73-69-77-76
296—Ernie Els (Rsa) 69-75-75-77 *AFP*

Marriage can wait for Tiger, says Earl

RADNOR, Pennsylvania—Tiger Woods is so focused on becoming the best golfer ever that marriage might have to wait, his father says.

"I don't see Tiger marrying before 30, if then. Because he has a lot to accomplish in the game of golf," Earl Woods told TV Guide for its June 9 issue. "And let's face it, a wife can sometimes be a deterrent to a good game of golf," he adds. "The level he's at, the finite little problems like that would destroy him."

Woods, 25, is single again after a recent break-up with his girlfriend of two years. He goes for his fifth straight major golf championship when the US Open begins June 14. *AP*

Delasin pockets ₱1.8M

DOROTHY Joy Delasin collapsed with a string of three bogeys from the 14th and settled for a share of 19th place in the US Women's Open golf championship at the Pine Needles Lodge and Golf Club in Southern Pines, North Carolina.

Delasin was in the running for a Top 10 finish until the hail of bogeys came, wounding up with a 288 total like four others on a day when Australian Karrie Webb recovered her winning touch to win the biggest prize money in the LPGA Tour.

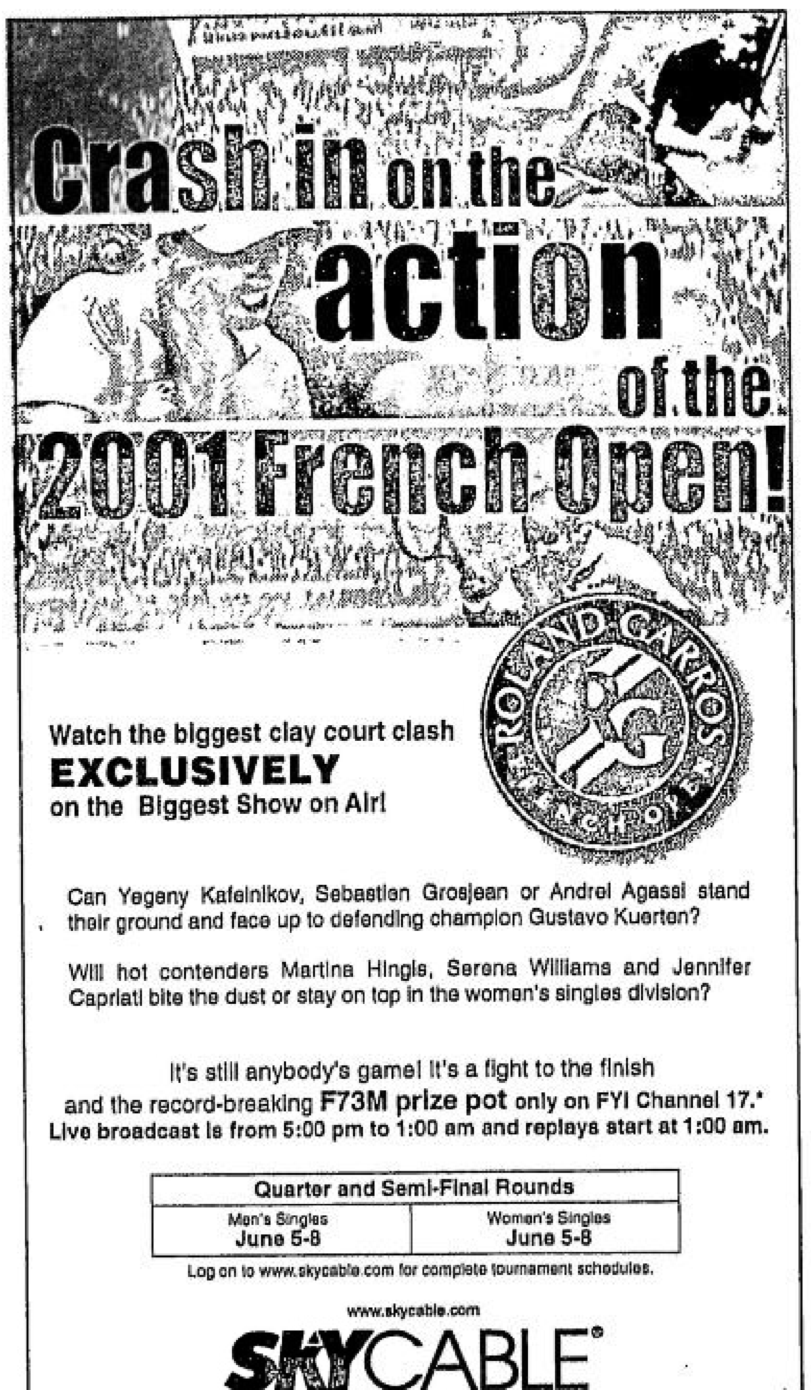
Webb routed the field with her closing 69 for 273, winning by eight strokes over Korean ace Se Ri Pak who had a 72-281. Webb won $520,000, which is big enough to propel her to second in the money list from fifth while Pak pocketed $310,000.

Delasin bagged her biggest paycheck this season of $37,327 (about P1.8 million) and boosted her earnings to $180,000.

Delasin, the reigning rookie of the year of the LPGA, got going with a birdie on the second, but bogeyed the seventh. She preserved her even par card all the way to the 13th.

Webb, becoming the seventh repeat winner in 56 years, hit the biggest jackpot in a season dominated by Swede Annika Sorenstam, who could only tie for 16th with a 73-288.

Jenny Rosales, the other RP campaigner, missed the cut. *Jong Arcano*



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Derby offers ₱3-M pot

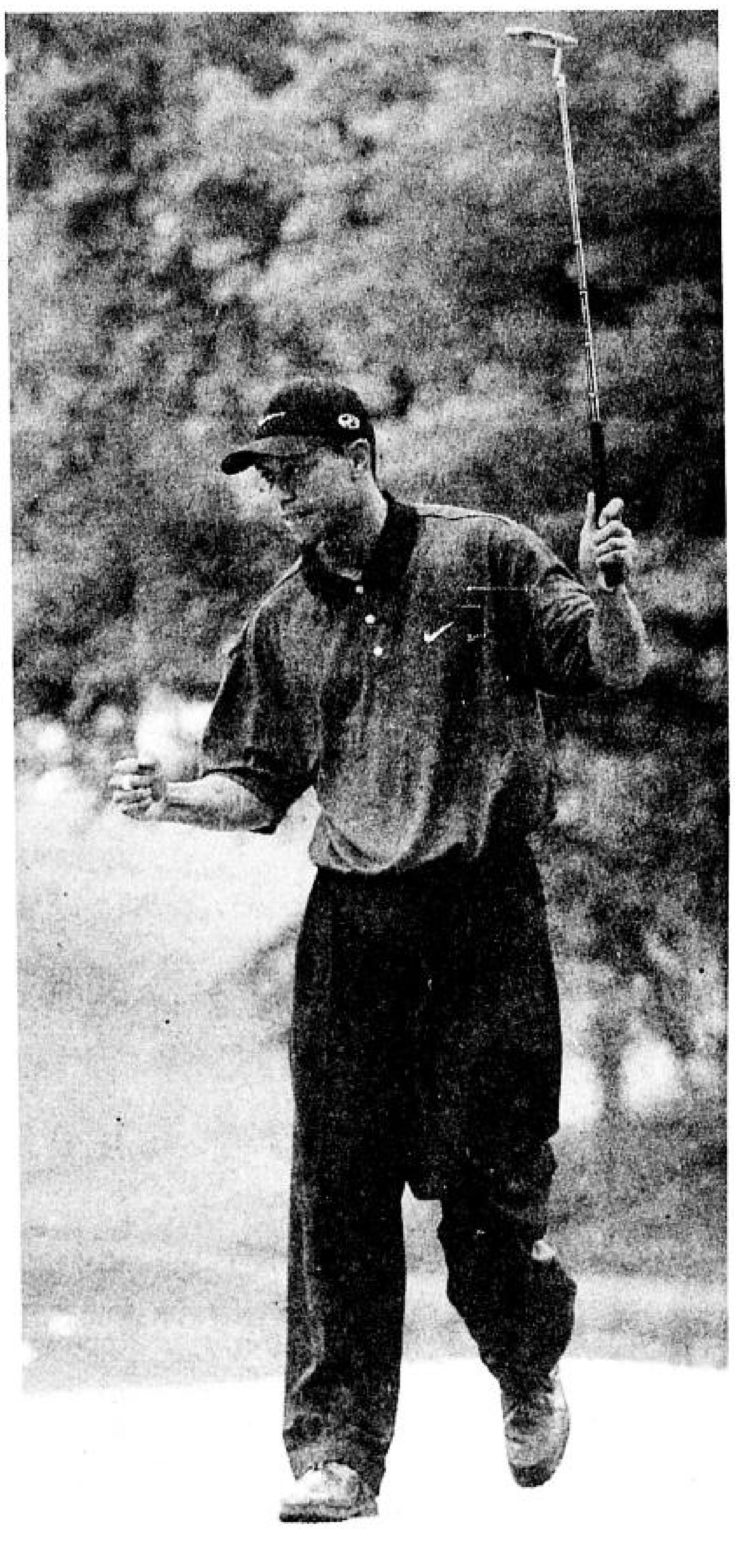
WITH one more week to go before Mandaluyong Coliseum's "Araw ng Kalayaan 7-Cock Derby" (June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21, 23 and 26), small-time and medium-scale cockers gird up for the big fight that may reward them a jackpot prize. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo. Hosted and promoted by the Optimum Property Management Inc. (OPMI), the seven-day cockfight fiesta dangles an eye-popping prize of P3 million to the champion, P1.5 million to any five points, P200,000 to the runners-up, P250,000 to the handler and P50,000 to the gaffer. Entry fee is only P20,000. For reservation of air-conditioned cockhouses, contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 535-2341 and 531-4005. "Participants may choose from any of the six days of elimination schedules on June 12, 14, 16, 19, 21 and 23. All qualifiers will advance to the finals on June 26," said coliseum manager Nandy Yu.

70 fights usher 4-cocker

NO less than 70 fights are in line when the ASF 4-Cock Derby opens today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit at Parañaque City. Big-time cockers from Bacolod, Iloilo, Cebu and Zamboanga have confirmed their entries in this derby hosted by Allan Sinco and Co. Among them are Dennis del Rosario, Carding Ng, Capt. Berto Lat, Dante Eustaquio, Atty. Rudy Salud, Jessie Cabalza, Jopete Group, Jimmy-ton Araneta, Peping Suarez, Bobby del Rosario, Engr. Meder Datu and others. Submission of weights between 1.8 kg and 2.4 kg is on the day of the fights (today) from 6 to 11 a.m. Danny (Showdown) Ty, the new manager of Roligon, announced that square-matching would be strictly observed in this derby.

Santos makes club proud

PUERTO PRINCESA—Cristina Santos made her home club proud following a 6-0, 6-0 win over Michelle Leoncio of Brookes Point to bag the Girls' 16-under title at the close of the 2001 Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop Sunday here at the PPCTC hardcourts. Santos shared the limelight with Mark Balce, Jopy Mamawal, Allan Ordinario, Cyrus Dabon, Gretchen Vasquez and Jhun Ventura in the Milo netfest organized by the Children's Tennis Workshop and supported by Adidas and Sports Kids. Balce blanked Chynna Mamawal, 6-0, 6-0 to win the unisex 10-under trophy; Jopy Mamawal retired Balce 6-4, 4-4 in the boys' 12-under bracket; Ordinario downed Ryan Gabinete 6-1, 6-2 in the boys' 14-under division; Dabon edged Rafael Abiog 6-2, 4-6, 6-1; Vasquez whitewashed Chynna 6-0, 6-0 in the girls' 12-under class and Ventura tripped Mark De Guzman 6-1, 6-3 in the Boys' 21-under event. On hand to award the Milo trophies was club president Bobby Castro.



WOODS: Next target is US Open. AP

Intervillage South qualifying ends today

THE ALAXAN Intervillage golf series winds up its eight-week, four-sector qualifying tournaments today as it stages the Alaxan Intervillage South golf tournament with four teams in hot pursuit of the three final berths at The Riviera Golf and Country Club in Cavite

Merville Park topped the first round of the series with 280 Stableford points but it leads the second running BF Homes by only eight points. Tahanan by 17 and Ayala Alabang by 21 points heading into the final 18 holes of the event sponsored by Alaxan. That sets up a battle royale for top honors although United Parañaque and Alabang 400 remain in the hunt with 242 and 228, respectively.

The top three finishers of this elims among villages in Parañaque, Muntinlupa and Las Piñas will join the other qualifiers of the East, North and Makati sector tournaments in the grand finals. The series is supported by BJ Marthel International, Mastercard, Pinoy Auctions.com, ICTSI, STI College, Callaway, Oddysey, Pisanti golf wear, Menzi and Co. and 357 Boracay.

Open stakes ₱10M

THE OUTPOURING of corporate support has assured the coming Philippine Open golf championship of at least P10 million in prize money, organizers bared yesterday.

Casino Filipino and San Miguel Beer are coming in as co-presentors and will shoulder the bulk of the prize package for the 86th edition of the national championship set June 27-July 1-at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.

"We're all set, we have gotten enough corporate support to ensure that we will be able to stage the Open this year," said organizing committee chair Benny Gopez during the recent cocktails for organizers and sponsors at Wack Wack.

There are already 25 foreign pros from 10 countries who have signed up, including former champion Anthony Kang of Korea (1999, Manila Southwoods) and Asian PGA Tour standouts Arjun Atwal of India and Simon Yates of Scotland.

Also providing its major support to the event jointly organized by National Golf Association of the Philippines and the Wack Wack Golf And Country Club is long-time Open sponsor Mitsubishi Motors Philippines, Inc. Mitsubishi will also put an attractive hole-in-one package for the tourney.

The other confirmed sponsors are Hanjin Shipping, Prudential Life Pension Plan, General Milling, Bingo Bonanza, Mizuno, Citgo, Solahart, Citra Tollways, Rudy Project, Cinnabon, Tretorn, Marsman, Pyramid Construction, Add Force Services, GG&A Club Shares, U-Bix and Nextel.

The foreign registrants so far are three Australians, three from Hong Kong, three from India, two from Japan, two from Taiwan, five from the United States, one from Singapore, three from Sweden and three from Myanmar.

Gopez added that invitations have been sent out to various national golf associations and at least 60 foreign pros are expected to be in the 150-player starting field.

A $10,000 pot has been alloted for the pro-am side-event on Wednesday, June 27.

VW tourney

NINE Philippine Junior Golf Federation players left for Singapore via Philippine Airlines yesterday to take part in this Year's Volkswagen Singapore Junior Open starting tomorrow.

Venue of the 54-hole tournament featuring other top juniors in the Asian region is the Garden Course of the exclusive Tanah Mera Golf and Country Club.

The players are Jenz Tecson, Frederick Garcia, Kevin Lachica, Marlo Capinianes, Q'roni Baterna, B.J. Dela Paz, Gio Dela Paz, Bambee Dela Paz and Bea Salao.

Leading the Philippine team is delegation head Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada, who is also the federation president. Cantada's son, Gerard, who had just turned professional is the coach.

Hackett whips rivals; HK bet keeps diadem

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—World champion Aussie Nicole Hackett crushed the opposition while Hong Kong's Daniel Lee Chi Wo successfully defended his title in the 8th Subic Bay Int'l Triathlon (Subit) Sunday

Ninth placer in the 2000 Sydney Olympic, Hackett failed to come near her personal best of one hour and 58 minutes on account of the heat but she still shattered the all-comers record of 2:08:13 set by Frenchwoman Beatrice Mouthon in Lake Caliraya, Laguna in 1998.

Hackett emerged from the placid bay waters some three minutes clear of her closes pursuers and methodically padded her advantage to cover the 1.5-kilometer run, 40-km bike and 10-km run course in two hours, four minutes and 35 seconds.

If it was a breeze for Hackett, it was rough sailing most of the way for Lee in the race sponsored by the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA), Speedo, Velocity Bikes, Rudy Project, Viva Mineral Water, OHM, Asia Pacific Insulation, Hotel La Corona, PSC and the POC Sports for All Commission.

Lee gained headway only in the last kilometer when the heat finally took its toll on Nick Homman, who finished fifth in the Australia Triathlon Championship. He stuck to Lee like a leech even as the crack Japanese squad fell one by one.

Lee, sixth placer in the Asian Triathlon Championship two weeks ago, clocked 1:54:47 to runner-up Homman's 1:55:38. Japan's Teppei Takeuchi, who was ahead of Lee by two places in the ASTC, rounded out the men's winners circle with a time of 1:56:39.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled By
Lorenzo Manguiat

BASKETBALL: 2001 WNBA Preview Special at 7:30 a.m. (r—5 p.m.) on ESPN
WNBA—Sacramento Monarchs vs New York Liberty at 8 a.m. (r—5:30 p.m.) on ESPN
TENNIS: 2001 French Open—Day 9-Quarterfinals at 6 p.m. (r—tomorrow at 1 a.m.) on SkyCable 17
GOLF: PGA Memorial Tournament, Second Round at 8 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
U.S. Women's Open Golf Championship, Final Round at 1 p.m. (r—8 p.m.) on ESPN
Asian PGA Tour—SK Telecom Classic Highlights at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

OFFICIAL BALL
KOREAN cage legend Shin Dong Pa (middle) and other officials join hands in endorsing Star Sports basketball as the official ball of the Asian University Basketball Championship. From left are finance officer Tony Fabico, organizing committee chair Philip Ella Juico, BAP president Tiny Literal, technical committee head Shin; lawyer Renato Bello, chair and president of IBC 13; Park Hyun Mo, president of Korean News Agency; and Art Onas, St. Francis of Assisi athletic director.

PBL CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Shark eyes 1st finals slot

GAMES TODAY
3:30 p.m.—Regent Cheeseballs vs UP (PYBL)
5:30 p.m.—Shark vs GIV Beauty Soap

BY-DENNIS EROA

SHARK Energy Drink shoots for the first finals slot when it tackles sister-team GIV Beauty Soap today in the PBL Chairman's Cup semifinals at the Makati Coliseum.

Though it enjoys a twice-to-beat advantage after topping the eliminations, Shark isn't in the mood to go through a decider.

GIV needed a 70-68 playoff win over PharmaQuick last Saturday to enter the four-team crossover semifinals. The Soap Experts owned the honor of snapping the eight-game winning streak of the Power Boosters in the eliminations with a stirring 76-63 triumph last May 15.

"We want to win it immediately. It's going to be difficult if you give GIV a chance," said coach Leo Austria, who is aiming to steer Shark to its second straight title after winning the Challenge Cup.

The Shark-GIV match is set at 5:30 p.m., after the 3:30 p.m. PYBL clash between Regent Cheeseballs and Univ. of the Philippines. A victory by Regent will power the Cheeseball Kings to the PYBL finals.

Though lacking in height, the Soap Makers burst with energy and the will to win. Eric de la Cuesta and Egay Billones pack deadly outside shots, while burly Francis Sanz and Arnold Calo make up for the inconsistent shows of slotman Marlon Legaspi.

GIV will miss the services of swingman Edwin Bacani, who was meted a one-game suspension for punching Jan Alfad during the Pharmaquick game.

"The men are raring to make it," said GIV mentor Nat Canson.

Canson needs to squeeze the best from pointguards Ogie Gumatay, John Paul Prior and Marlon Kalaw to counter the vastly-improved plays of Warren Ybañez and the foxy Michael Robinson.

Shark attack is made deadlier by leading MVP contender Chester Tolomia, Gilbert Malabanan and MC Caceres. Rysal Castro and Ervin Sotto must also assert themselves on the slot in order to make Shark's transition game a reality.

Regent, bannered by standouts from basketball-crazy Pampanga, carries a 2-0 advantage over UP in their head-to-head encounter. The Maroons, who are using this event as final preparation for the coming UAAP cage wars, must beat their foes twice in order to advance.

"This is an entirely new ballgame," said Regent mentor Allan Trinidad, who is being assisted by Dayong Mendoza.

Benilde, UM shock rivals

COLLEGE of St. Benilde shamed mighty Beijing Shougong Industrial College, 77-74, even as titleholder University of Manila nipped Chinese Taipei University Sports Foundation, 81-79, in a pair of reversals yesterday in the 2nd Asian University Basketball Championship.

The sizeable Rizal Memorial Coliseum crowd broke into thunderous applause as St. Benilde rattled Beijing with a tireless, unrelenting defense, while UM leaned on the hot hands of Mark Saquilayan and Rudolf Eilenger to beat CTSUF.

Dennis Eroa

REUTERS

EAST CHAMPIONS

Philadelphia 76ers Dikembe Mutombo and Tyrone Hill hold the trophy presented to the winners of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals after they defeated the Milwaukee Bucks in Philadelphia yesterday. The 76ers won 108-91 and will meet the Los Angeles Lakers in the NBA Finals starting on June 6 in Los Angeles. ***See story on A18***

SERENA Williams hits a backhand against Petrova.
AP

Kuerten, Hingis, S. Williams win

PARIS—Top seed and defending champion Gustavo Kuerten continued his Parisian love-affair Sunday, but only just, as he staved off a match point to beat qualifier Michael Russell of the United States 3-6, 4-6, 7-6 (7-3), 6-3, 6-1 to reach the French Open men's singles quarterfinals.

Kuerten, who needed 3 hours and 25 minutes to get the better of a dogged opponent ranked just 122 in the world, next plays old rival Yevgeny Kafelnikov, the 1996 champion and seventh seed, after the Russian skated past Tommy Robredo of Spain 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4.

The Brazilian has twice wrecked Kafelnikov's dreams in five-set quarters - and on both occasions he went on to lift the title.

Kafelnikov, meanwhile, opined after beating Tommy Robredo of Spain 6-3, 6-4, 1-6, 6-4 that Kuerten had "got really lucky" and said he was looking forward to what he called his date with destiny.

Aussie battler Lleyton Hewitt, the sixth seed, will meanwhile have to wait until Monday to finish his clash with Argentine Guillermo Canas when bad light stopped their match after almost four hours on court.

Hewitt had battled back from two sets down when the match was halted at 3-6, 6-7 (3/7), 6-2, 6-3, 4-2 in his favor.

Among the women, top seed Martina Hingis of Switzerland reached the quarterfinals with a 6-1, 2-6, 6-2 win over last home survivor Sandrine Testud despite having the crowd solidly against her.

US sixth seed Serena Williams beat unseeded Nadia Petrova of Russia 6-3, 6-1 to set up a meeting with fourth-seeded compatriot Jennifer Capriati, who ousted another American, Meghann Shaughnessy, 7-5, 6-1.

"I think it'll be a great match. It should be great for Americans," said Williams of her next challenge, the winner of which would be in line to face Hingis in the semis.

Belgian 14th seed Justine Henin beat unseeded Austrian Barbara Schett 6-3, 6-4 to move into the last eight for the first time and the 19-year-old will now face 17-year-old Lina Krasnoroutskaya after the Russian swept aside Silvia Farina of Italy 6-2, 6-4.

Belgian 12th seed Kim Clijsters joined Henin in the last eight after beating Slovakia's Henrieta Nagyova 6-4, 4-6, 6-3.

She now plays surprise package and Hungarian qualifier Petra Mandula, who ousted Italy's Rita Grande 6-2, 6-3.

AFP

Kookie tops GP 6th round

SUBIC—Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA overcame tremendous odds to rule the action-packed sixth round, but Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery kept the overall lead in the Blaze super saloon category—centerpiece event of the Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway here last Sunday.

Ramirez, the oldest of four sons of race legend and last year's overall champion Pocholo Ramirez, survived the challenge of Jody Coseteng of Caltex-Red Horse-Team Tom's Racing Team in the sixth round to move into second place in the overall standings in this 14-part series organized by Sports Values, Inc. and sponsored by Petron.

"I'm satisfied with my performance this weekend. It was really a tough race," said Ramirez, who is hoping to become the fourth member of the famed Ramirez family to win "Driver of the Year" honors.

Ramirez clocked 39:01.950 in the 15-lap race at the 2.8 kilometer seaside course against Coseteng's 39:04.463 and Ong's 39:10.333. He also posted the fastest lap time for the day of 1:35.947 in the 11th lap.

Coseteng, however, shared the limelight by winning the fifth round over Ong and Nilo Pazcoguin of Tom's-Auto Trend held earlier in the day. He timed 40:55.317 against Ong's 40:58:861 and Pazcoguin's 41:01 639.

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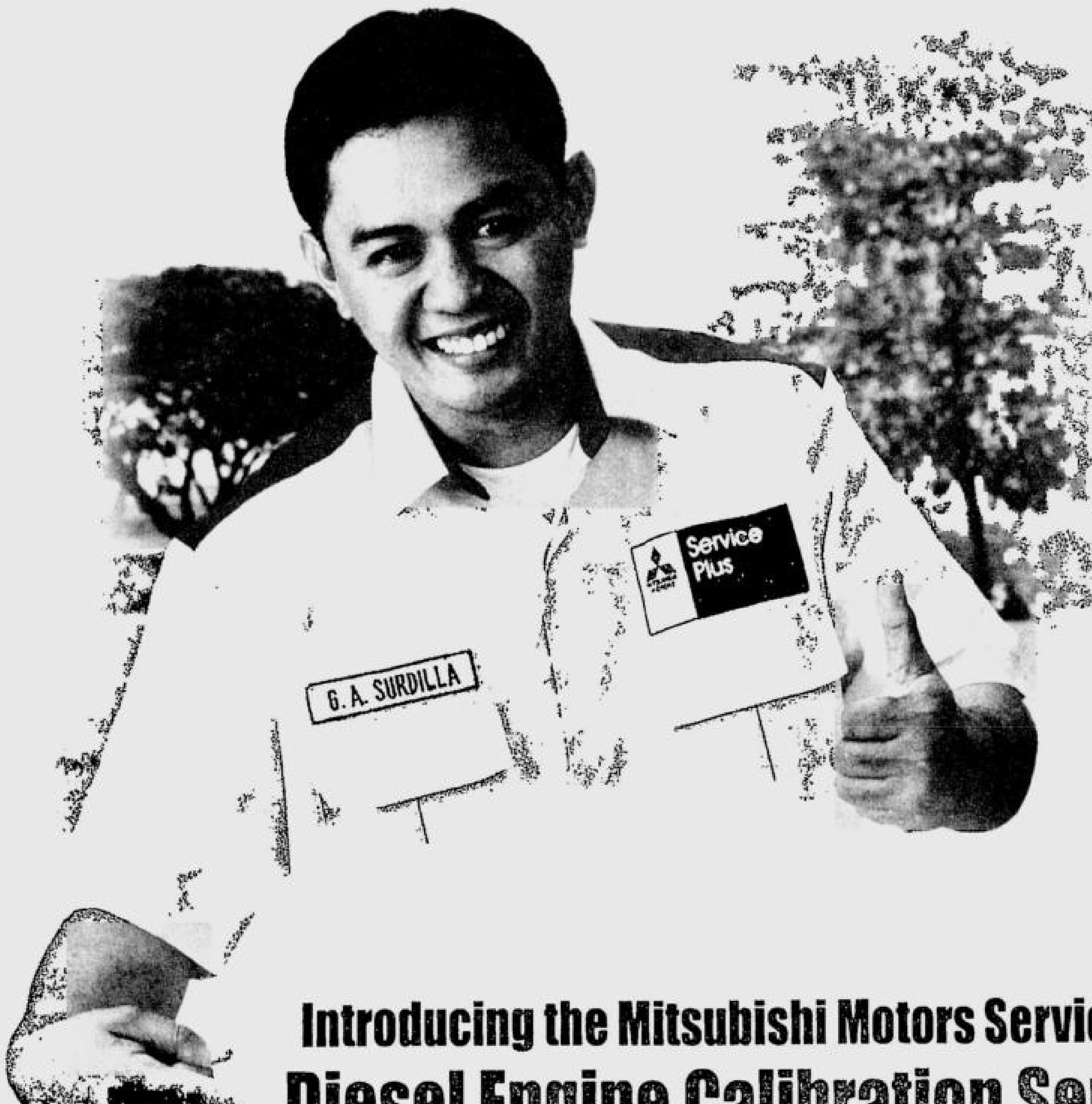

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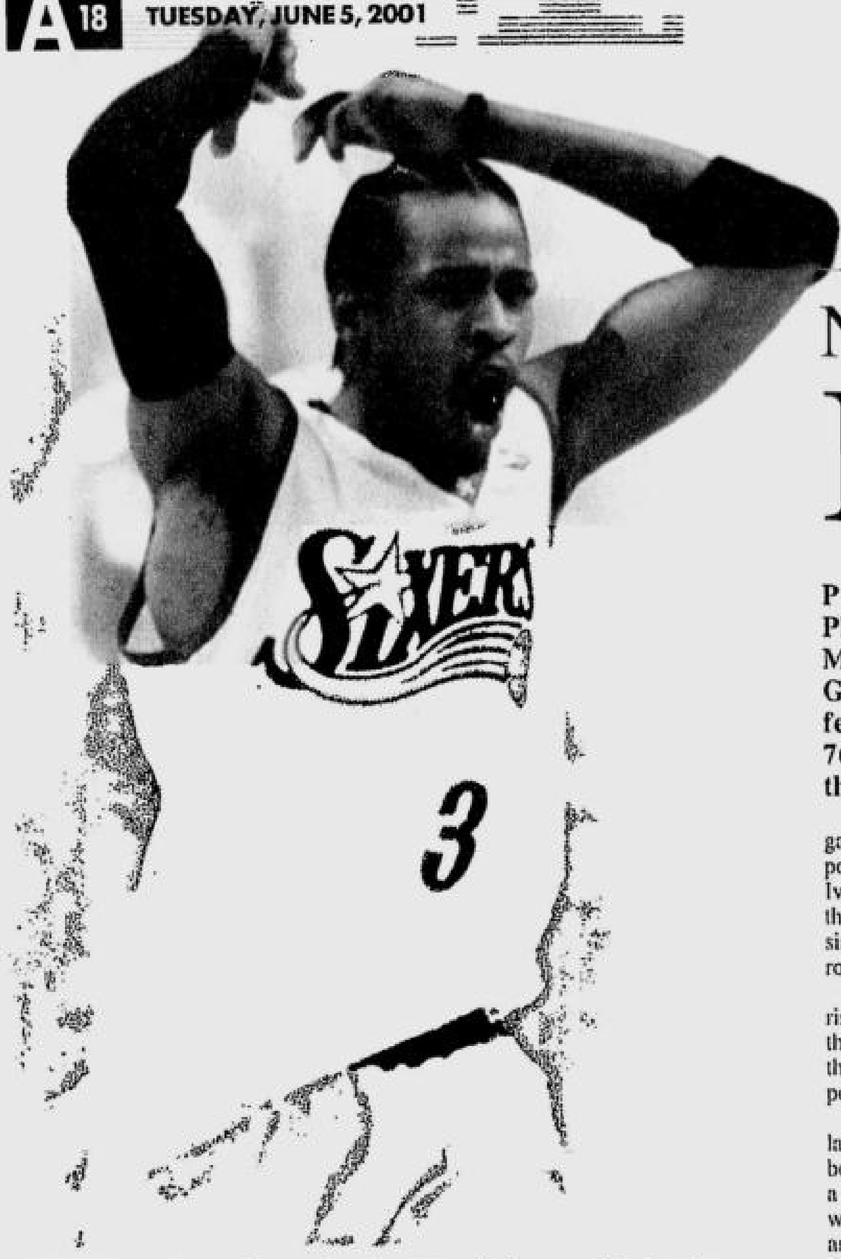
SPORTS

Al S. Mendoza, Editor ▪ Edwin M. Villanueva, Assistant Editor

No summer league for Jordan

BOSTON—Michael Jordan's comeback—if there is one—won't start in a summer league in Boston. The Washington Wizards, which Jordan partly owns, are among 10 NBA teams planning to send a squad to the eight-day workout league that starts July 16 at the University of Massachusetts-Boston campus. The Boston Globe, citing unidentified sources, said officials at the school have been alerted that Jordan could begin his comeback there.
AP



IVERSON whoops it up after the 76ers' win over the Bucks. AP

NBA FINALS

It's 76ers vs Lakers

PHILADELPHIA—The Philadelphia 76ers beat the Milwaukee Bucks 108-91 in Game 7 of the Eastern Conference finals, sending the 76ers to the NBA finals for the first time in 18 years.

Allen Iverson had his best all-around game of the series Sunday night with 44 points, seven assists and six rebounds. Iverson shot 17-for-33, making more than half his attempts for the first time since Game 6 of Philadelphia's second-round series against Toronto.

Dikembe Mutombo, acquired in a risky trade with Atlanta in February that the 76ers hoped would propel them to the finals, was dominant, too, with 23 points, 19 rebounds and seven blocks.

The 76ers took control of the game late in the third quarter after Milwaukee's best player, Ray Allen, went down with a knee injury. Milwaukee trailed by six when he left and by 12 when he returned, and the Bucks never made a run in the fourth quarter as the final minutes turned into a lovefest between the Sixers and their ecstatic fans who had been waiting since 1983 for another trip to the finals.

The finals will begin Wednesday night (Thursday morning in Manila) at Los Angeles, where the Lakers will have been waiting 10 days since their last game.

A chant of "Beat L.A." rose up with just under three minutes left, and the fans were on their feet screaming the rest of the way.

Iverson cupped his hand to his ear and danced around the court with 42 seconds left when he left the game for good, jumping into the arms of Larry Brown, the coach he finally learned to respect and listen to.

Iverson and Mutombo were the main reasons why Philadelphia dominated the final game, but they weren't the only ones.

Aaron McKie had 10 points and a career-high 13 assists, and little-known Raja Bell—a rookie who signed a 10-day contract with the 76ers on April 6—scored 10 points in the second quarter when Philadelphia took the lead for good, going on a 21-6 run after he entered the game.

The 76ers did all the little things—deflecting balls, creating turnovers, grabbing offensive rebounds to create second and third opportunities—that Milwaukee didn't while playing with a confidence and composure that the Bucks will have all summer to envy.

Philadelphia created 15 turnovers, grabbed 17 offensive rebounds, scored 19 second-chance points and had 11 steals.

Milwaukee, which was led by Allen's 26 points, while Glenn Robinson had 24 and Sam Cassell 20, was simply outplayed in every hustle category.

Iverson scored Philadelphia's first six points of the third quarter and the Sixers were ahead 68-61 when Allen was called for an offensive foul as he tried to drive around Eric Snow. The two banged knees on the play, and Allen stayed down for two minutes before walking off gingerly. As the Bucks came out of a timeout, Allen was helped to the locker room.

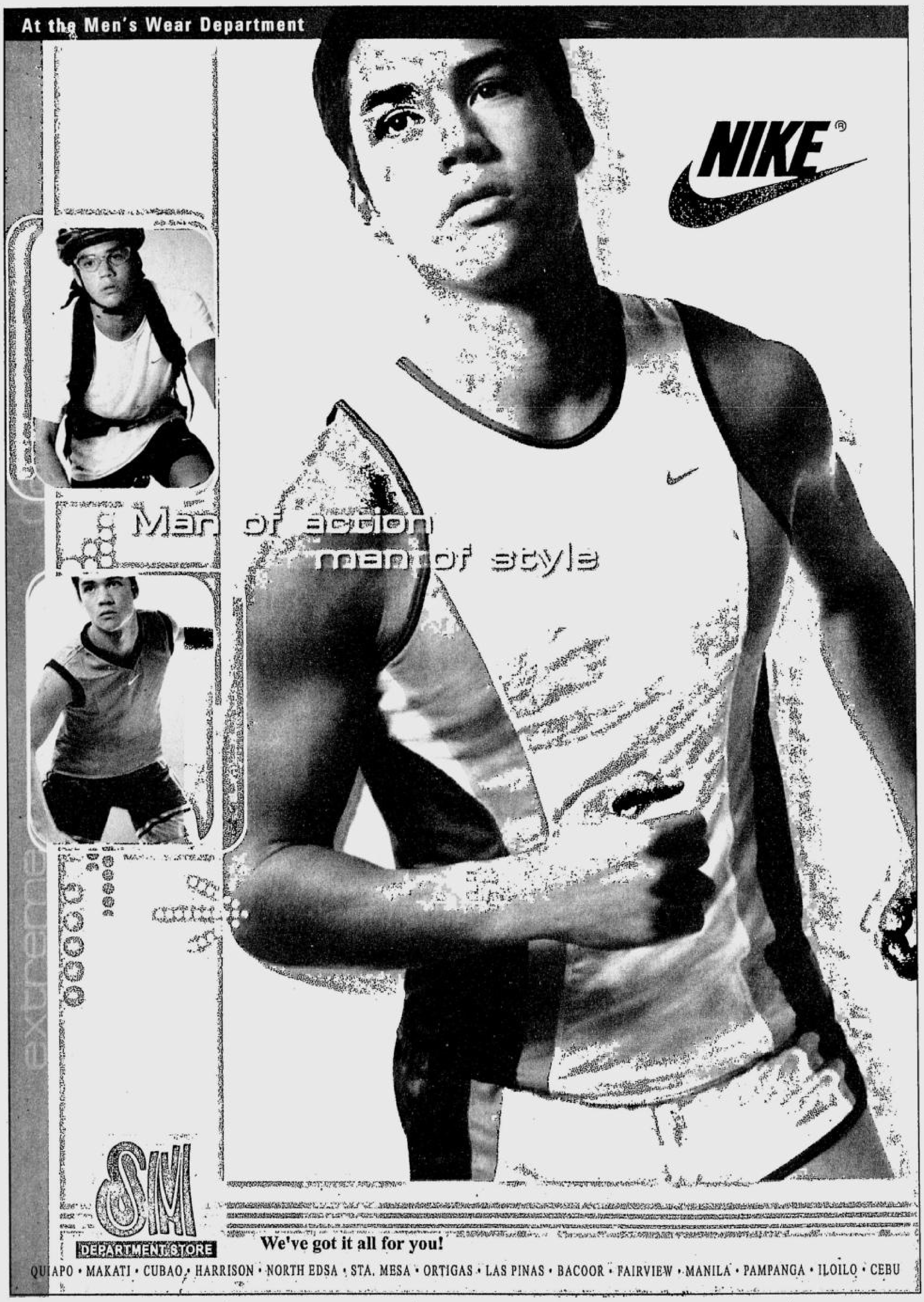
Allen returned to the bench late in the third quarter—just in time to see Iverson step back and nail a 3-pointer at the buzzer for an 82-71 lead.

Allen then reported to the scorer's table 40 seconds into the fourth quarter, giving him a perfect view from behind Iverson as the MVP launched another 3-pointer from nearly the identical spot and it swished trough for an 85-71 lead.
AP

NBA FINALS SKED

(Manila time, 2-3-2 format)

Game 1 (June 7, Thur.)
Philadelphia at LA Lakers, 9 a.m.
Game 2 (June 9, Sat.)
Philadelphia at LA Lakers, 9 a.m.
Game 3 (June 11, Mon.)
Lakers at Philadelphia, 7:30 a.m.
Game 4 (June 14, Thur.)
LA Lakers at Philadelphia, 9 a.m.
***Game 5 (June 16, Sat.)**
LA Lakers at Philadelphia, 9 a.m.
***Game 6 (June 19, Tue.)**
Philadelphia at LA Lakers, 9 a.m.
*** Game 7 (June 21, Thur.)**
Philadelphia at LA Lakers, 9 a.m.
* *if necessary*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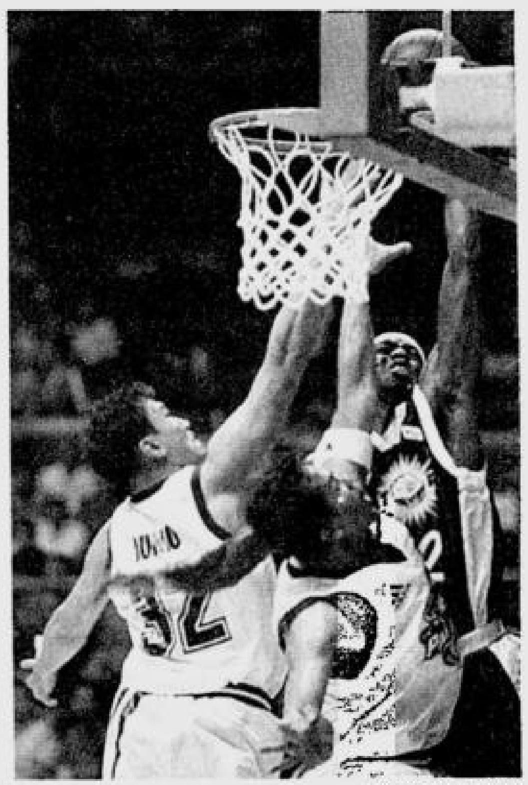


ROMY HOMILLADA

PBA ACTION

Sta. Lucia Realty import Ansu Sesay (right) shoots over Pop Cola's Poch Juinio (left) and Estong Ballesteros during their PBA Commissioner's Cup game Sunday night at the Araneta Coliseum. The Realtors prevailed, 95-86.

POC seeks help on liquidation

By June Navarro

CELSO Dayrit, president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, said the Olympic body had already requested the Philippine Sports Commission to coordinate with the Commission on Audit to solve its liquidation woes.

Dayrit said they submitted all the accounting records disbursed during the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games to the PSC and have asked the financial arm of the government in sports if the documents could serve as proof of payment.

The unaccounted P10-million financial assistance then POC president Cristy Ramos got from the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. has put the POC in a bind and was told to liquidate before June 15.

Failing to meet the deadline would mean possible legal sanctions as the PSC is deadset to elevate the POC's case to the Office of the Solicitor General.

To avert the legal impediments, Dayrit has asked POC first vice president Steve Hontiveros and treasurer Benjie Ramos to iron out the kinks directly with the COA and the PSC.

"This is not a normal PSC-POC monetary transaction. We have to discuss the matter with the PSC and the COA to determine if the documents we retrieved from Cristy Ramos could be accepted as liquidation statements," said Dayrit.

Records show the financial assistance was supposed to go to the coffers of the PSC's National Sports Development Fund but was instead channeled to the POC's campaign in the Bangkok Asian Games.

Dayrit said the documents were retrieved from Ramos' office weeks after the latter was dethroned via a popular revolt in 1998.

TRO decision set today or tomorrow

JUDGE Artemio Tipon of the Manila Regional Trial Court yesterday postponed his decision on the petition for the temporary restraining order filed by the Basketball Association of the Philippines group of Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal.

Tipon, presiding judge of the petition seeking for the stoppage of the June 7 BAP elections, said he would hand down a decision today or tomorrow.

He also broached the idea of inhibiting himself from the petition and raffling it off to the 55 judges.

Literal's group is willing to submit itself to the elections but insisted that the venue be transferred from the penthouse of the Manila Bank building in Makati to a place favorable to both parties.
June Navarro

■ Stampede!
■ RDC for Metro
A21

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

■ 2 hard-up men
commit suicide
A21

Guard slain in foiled UCPB rob

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A SECURITY guard was killed when a group of men attempted to rob a United Coconut Planters Bank branch in Quezon City yesterday. Seven other people were wounded, including two suspects and a depositor.

Simplicio Velaya took a bullet in the head during a three-minute gun battle with the suspects, police said, adding that the suspects are members of the "Bonnet Gang," so called because of their headwear.

Among the injured were two of Velaya's colleagues whom police identified as Pepito Sepcon and Warlito Gumogda, police said.

The bank's other security guards said two of the robbers were also injured during the gunfight.

The other wounded were customer Gloria Reyes, who was withdrawing money from the bank during the heist, and bank employee Romy Alipuin, according to Insp. Rudy Jaraza, head of the Central Police District homicide division.

The wounded were brought to Capitol Medical Center.

Witnesses told investigators that six armed men, all wearing bonnets and riding in three vehicles, attacked an armored UCPB van outside the bank's branch at the corner of Roosevelt and Quezon avenues at 2:40 p.m.

The three vehicles had been trailing the van from the UCPB main office in Makati, police said.

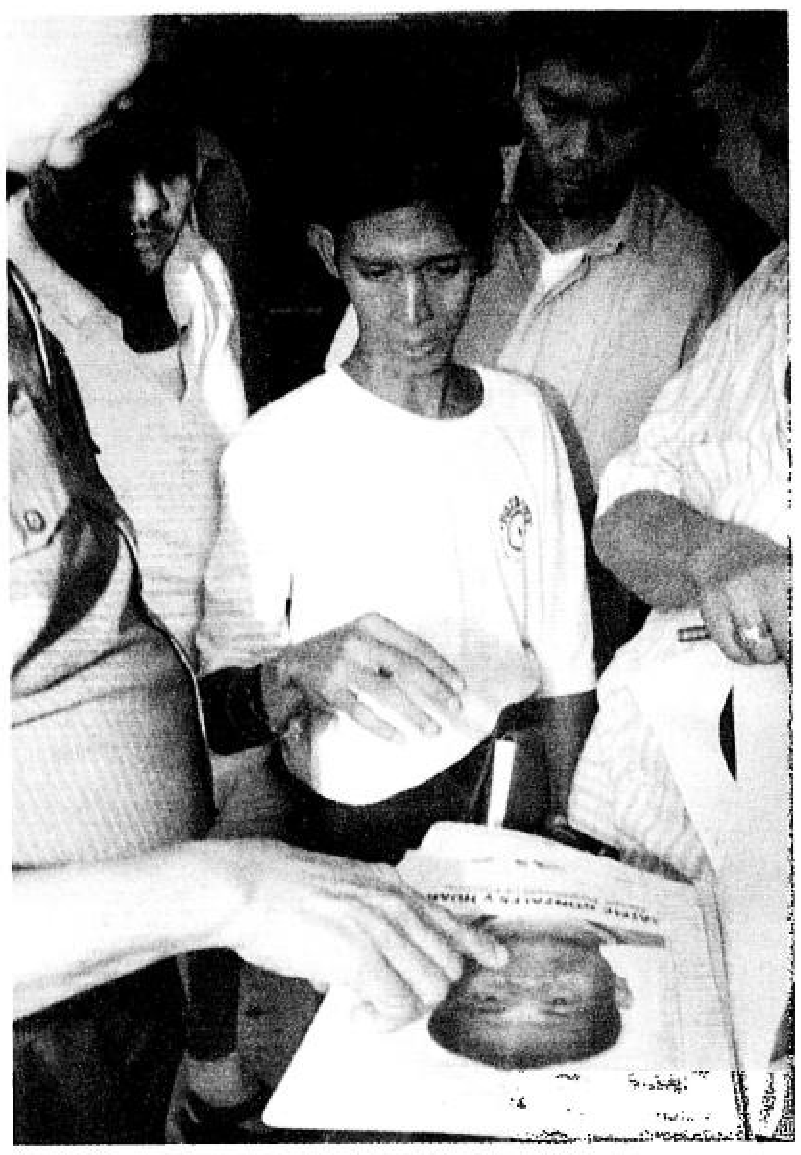
At the Roosevelt branch, the robbers opened fire at the armored van, police said.

The bank's security guards, armed with shotguns, returned fire and were able to drive away the robbers after about three minutes of intense fighting, police said.

The robbers retreated empty-handed and sped off on Quezon Avenue in the direction of Manila, witnesses said.

GUARD/A21

THE BANK'S glass doors are reduced to shards after the security guards traded gunfire with the suspects.



A WITNESS tries to identify the suspects.

ROGER MARGALLO

Don Bosco student shot dead by cell phone snatchers

BY AGNES E. DONATO

A DON Bosco computer engineering student was shot dead by two cell phone snatchers he tried to fight off in Mandaluyong City on Sunday night.

Dominic Morano, 21, and a resident of Plainview, Mandaluyong City, was shot three times in the body and died while being brought to the Lourdes Hospital in Sta. Mesa, Manila, police said.

Supt. Jose Gentiles, the Mandaluyong City police chief, said Morano was using his cell phone in front of the ACA video shop at the corner of Haig Street and Shaw Boulevard when two men tried to grab his phone at 11:15 p.m. Sunday.

Morano tried to fight off the two men who were armed with a handgun and a fan knife, police said.

During the scuffle, one of the armed men shot Morano. The two men then fled on board a motorcycle.

A passerby brought Morano to the hospital, where doctors pronounced him dead on arrival.

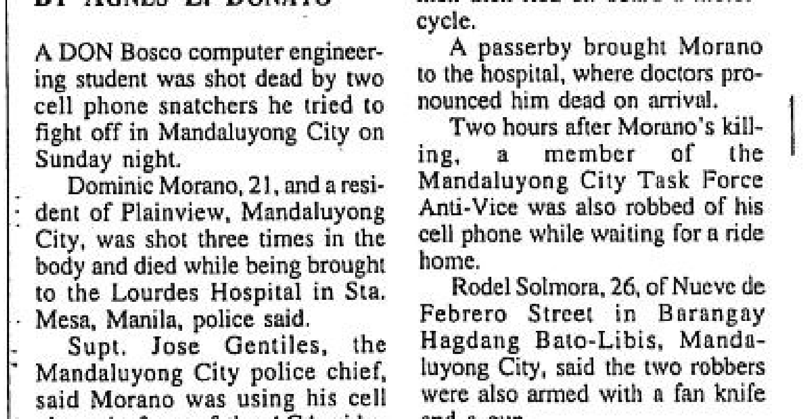
Two hours after Morano's killing, a member of the Mandaluyong City Task Force Anti-Vice was also robbed of his cell phone while waiting for a ride home.

Rodel Solmora, 26, of Nueve de Febrero Street in Barangay Hagdang Bato-Libis, Mandaluyong City, said the two robbers were also armed with a fan knife and a gun.

He said the robbers warned him not to fight back and then grabbed his cell phone. They calmly walked away toward Edsa, he added.

Police said the snatchers in both cases could be the same men.

Superintendent Gentiles deployed more foot patrol officers in the city.



WATER, UNINTERRUPTED EDWIN BACASMAS

Residents of San Andres, Manila, take advantage of the water from a hydrant while many parts of Metro Manila, including the bars and restaurants in nearby Malate, were enduring three days of water service "interruption" due to Maynilad Water Services interconnection projects. The water supply returned to normal yesterday.

Trader killed in QC ambush

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

A CHINESE-FILIPINO businessman was killed in an ambush in Quezon City yesterday afternoon, police said.

Conrado Chua was shot several times by two men on a motorcycle at about 2 p.m., police said.

Chua suffered three gunshot wounds in the chest, police said.

Chua, owner of a factory in Quezon City, was ambushed in Del Pilar in Barangay San Antonio while he was on board his brown Honda CRV van (WJX 757), investigators said.

The armed men blocked Chua's car and immediately shot him, investigators said.

Chua's body was brought to the Philippine National Police Crime Laboratory for autopsy.

Members of the Central Police District homicide division theorized that Chua's killing could have been "business-related."

Police have launched a manhunt for the gunmen.

3 men plead not guilty of beheading 3 youths

BY CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA

THE SUSPECTS in the beheading in April of three alleged cell phone snatchers in Quezon City yesterday pleaded not guilty before a regional trial court.

PO3 Mario Morales of the Central Police District, Almario Bernardino, 32, and Rommel Villas, 33, entered the not-guilty plea during their arraignment in the sala of Judge Teodoro Bay of RTC Branch 86.

The three were charged with three counts of murder for the deaths of Kenny Azana, 16, Rolando Popanes, 18, and a certain Badjao, about 12 to 15 years old, whose headless bodies were found near the entrance of Cresta Verde Subdivision on Mindanao Avenue in Quezon City.

The suspects are also facing frustrated murder charges for allegedly trying to kill a key witness in the beheading.

Police said the teenage victims were known snatchers of cell phones in the Tandang Sora area who allegedly received police protection.

The witness said the three young men were beheaded in a Quezon City safehouse after they failed to return a stolen cell phone.

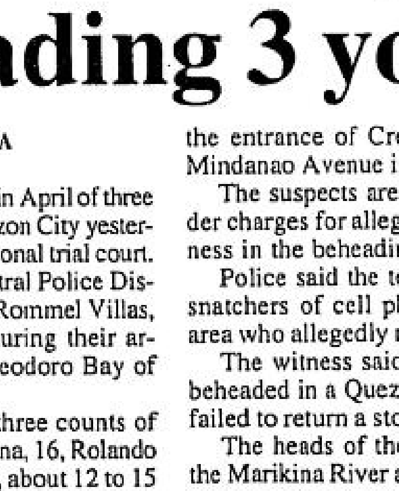
The heads of the victims were recovered in the Marikina River about a month after their bodies were found.

2 drunken foreigners drop Ruffa's name, are deported

BY TJ BURGONIO

TWO drunken foreigners, including one claiming to be an ex-boyfriend of movie star Ruffa Gutierrez, were barred from entering the Philippines for alleged rude behavior on board a flight to Manila and at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

American John Robert McAuley dropped the name of Gutierrez but that did not stop airport immigration officials from placing him and his Australian companion, Steven Zoltan Slezak, on a return flight to the United States Saturday morning.



GUTIERREZ

"He probably thought name-dropping Ruffa could change our decision to exclude them," immigration officer Rudy David said.

The two men's unruly behavior, including cursing and assaulting an immigration officer, prompted officials to also recommend their inclusion in the immigration blacklist.

The pair arrived Friday night on board a Northwest Airlines flight.

Immigration officer Jun Manahan said that according to witnesses, the two men started getting unruly toward fellow passengers on board a Northwest Airlines flight to Manila. This continued when they arrived at the Naia and lined up at the immigration counter.

Witnesses said McAuley casually cursed immigration officer Maida Rebong when she asked for his travel documents, according to Manahan.

"You're a pain in the ass," McAuley was quoted as telling Rebong. He uttered the same remark when an angry Rebong referred him and his companion to the investigation division.

During interrogation, the two foreigners allegedly attempted to bribe the immigration officers, which only prompted the officers to put the pair on the first flight back to the US the next day, Saturday

It was then that McAuley dropped the name of Gutierrez, claiming she had been his girlfriend.

Saturday morning, McAuley insisted on going out of the airport and became rowdy when the airline crew refused to let him. Immigration officer Ferdinand Sampol tried to pacify the American.

McAuley allegedly lunged at Sampol, grabbed his ID card and ripped his uniform. The fistfight that ensued was stopped by airport police.

The day the two foreigners flew back to the US was McAuley's 37th birthday.

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CLINICA MANILA
2nd Flr. Bldg. A SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER
3rd Flr., Mercury Drug Bldg., Glorietta,
Ayala Center, Makati City

Wazzzzup?

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Cowboy Grill ALMANZA LAS PIÑAS	GOALKEYS KOOL JACKS	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 801.7644
Cowboy Grill ARQUIZA ST. MANILA	MUSIC CIRCUIT STAY TUNED/CITY BORN	NO ENTRANCE FEE 525.1474/525.4269
Cowboy Grill REMEDIOS ST. MALATE	SERSIDE PUZZLES	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 521.8143
Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	HOMOSAPIENS HIMIG	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
KAMPO 2088 #47 WEST AVENUE Q.C.	FREEVERSE HEAT OF D'NIGHT/FAT SESSION	P 200 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.5110
EXAMINER'S LITE n' LIVE #52 EXAMINER ST. Q.C.	L.O.C 7TH SOUL	P 150 CONSUMABLE ☎ 373.2221
music WAREHOUSE IN FRONT OF CENTRAL MARKET	MERMAIDS 7 SECONDS	NO ENTRANCE FEE 735.1280/735.1405
PADI'S POINT MANILA	7 SECONDS LUCAS w/ REPLIKA	NO ENTRANCE FEE 527.6180/527.6211
TIA MARIA'S REMEDIOS COR. CAROLINA	BLIZZARD MIX-UP	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 522.0429
TROPICAL FOREST Cafe • Grill • Restaurant	SWING JOURNAL	LUNCH SPECIAL P 195/3- COURSE MEAL

OTHER PLACES

Ka Freddie Music Restaurant MARCOS HIGHWAY, ANTIPOLO	JAMES CAÑEJA ANTOINETTE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 677.0795
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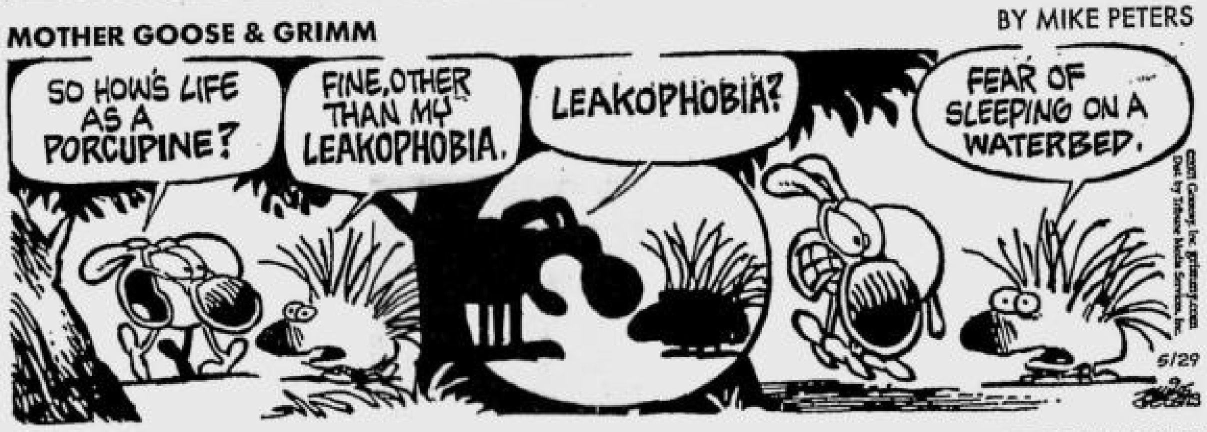
TUESDAY, JUNE 5 912-8983

ComicRelief

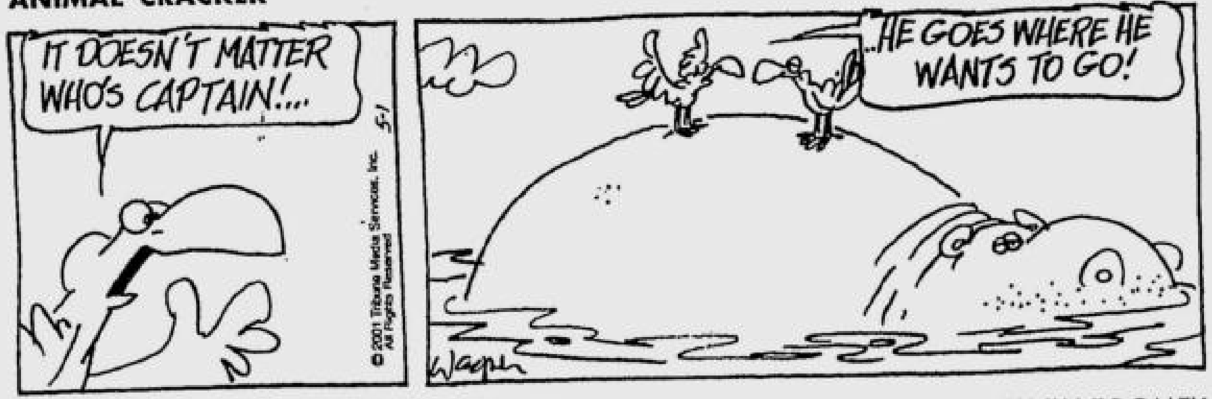
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


SO HOW'S LIFE AS A PORCUPINE?
FINE, OTHER THAN MY LEAKOPHOBIA.
LEAKOPHOBIA?
FEAR OF SLEEPING ON A WATERBED.
5/29

ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO'S CAPTAIN!...
..HE GOES WHERE HE WANTS TO GO!
5-1
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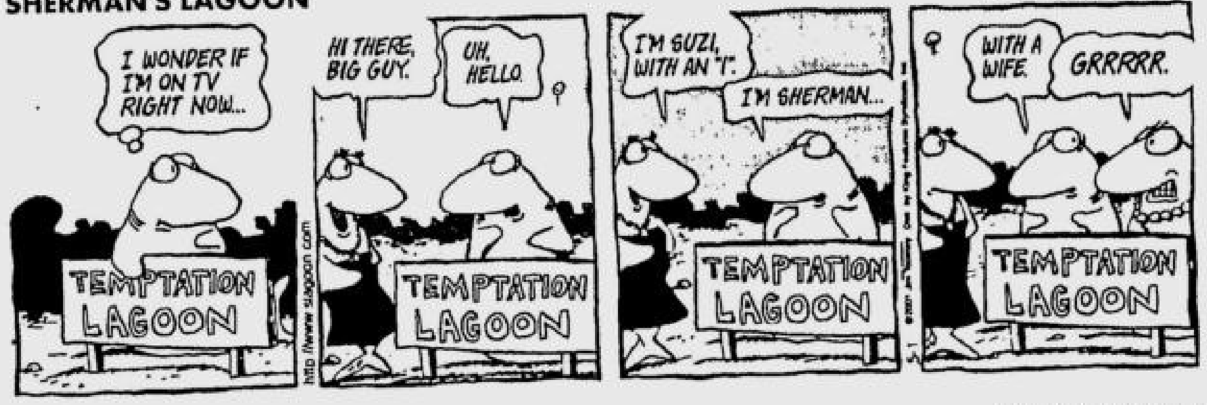
Wagner

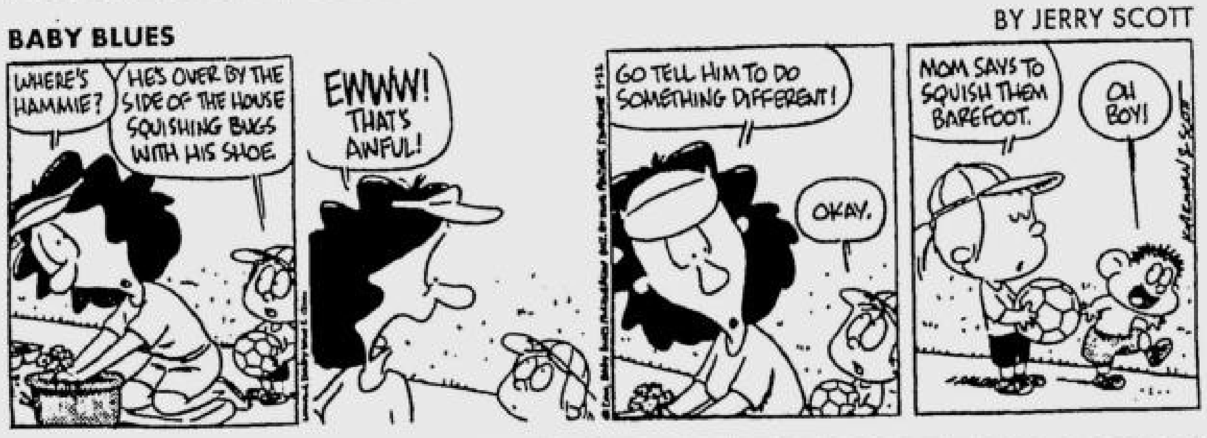
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I WONDER IF I'M ON TV RIGHT NOW...
TEMPTATION LAGOON
HI THERE, BIG GUY.
UH, HELLO.
I'M SUZI, WITH AN "I".
I'M SHERMAN...
WITH A WIFE.
GRRRRR.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE'S HAMMIE?
HE'S OVER BY THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE SQUISHING BUGS WITH HIS SHOE.
EWWW! THAT'S AWFUL!
GO TELL HIM TO DO SOMETHING DIFFERENT!
OKAY.
MOM SAYS TO SQUISH THEM BAREFOOT.
OH BOY!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ken Follett, Mark Wahlberg, Chad Allen, Bill Moyers, Laurie Anderson, Spalding Gray

Happy Birthday: Don't put yourself in an awkward position this year. Protect yourself from negative, needy individuals. Your creativity will take over and direct your energy into projects that will allow you to be innovative. Accept challenges head-on and thrive by using your acute intelligence to master whatever is necessary to attain your dreams. Your numbers: 4, 19, 26, 31, 35, 38

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your need to be excessive will work against you. If you can control yourself, you will enjoy the outcome of the day's events much more. Be yourself, and you will attract the right kind of attention.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may be having trouble fulfilling your desires. Talk to your partner about your likes and dislikes. Compatibility is not measured by physical contact alone. You have to relate mentally first.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Someone will openly oppose you if you try to push your way into his or her heart. Aggressive action will cause alienation and a lack of trust. Take your time and build on a friendship first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have to keep busy if you want to take your mind off unpleasant memories. Put the past behind you. It's time to build a better future for yourself and those you love.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't overspend on children or entertainment. You can pamper yourself without being extravagant. Changes regarding colleagues should be to your benefit.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Contain your anger. Family members may shirk their responsibilities, leaving you with all the work. Do your share and leave the rest for them. Stand your ground—but silently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You just want to have fun. You're up for new and exciting adventures. Attend functions that will allow you to connect with unusual individuals. You need to add some spice to your life.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You're likely to take on too much at work. Be careful: You'll make yourself look bad in the eyes of superiors. You may be dedicated but you can't take on the whole world by yourself. Enlist help.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Past partners will reappear, leaving you confused about your present relationship. Don't make hasty decisions. It won't work if you start seeing him or her while you're still involved.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can bet that someone is trying to undermine you at work. Talk frankly to superiors or colleagues. Don't leave any room for misunderstandings or misinterpretation.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to distance yourself from those who have been leaning on you too much. Get on with the things that you like to do. You've given up too much for others.

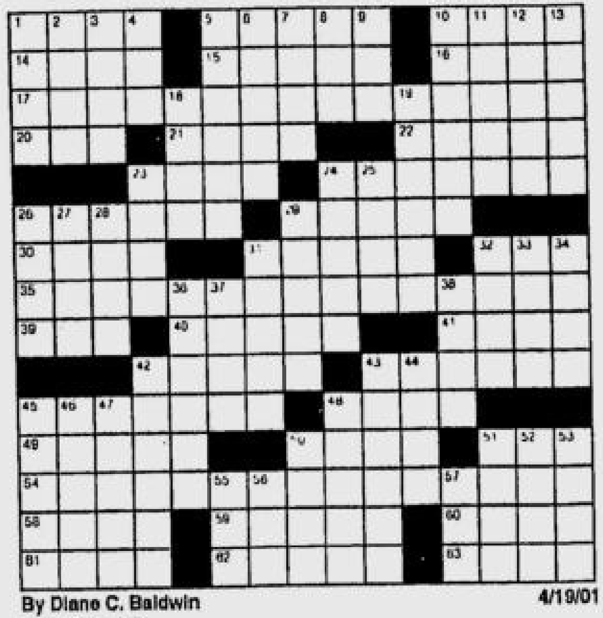
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Be careful not to hurt someone's feelings. You'll be popular with those who don't know you that well, but loved ones will feel left out, insecure and put off.

Birthday Baby: You were born to wander. You are exciting, outgoing and always looking for adventure. You are a mover and a shaker and will leave anyone with less energy in your dust. You will always be off and running in whatever direction beckons you.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Surfeit
5 Leafy quaker
10 Tramp
14 Continental currency
15 Old hat
16 Hey!
17 Angry in a town in Lombardy?
20 Take to court
21 Sushi fish
22 Brother of Moses
23 Trunk coverage
24 Short-legged hounds
26 Barbershop tool
29 Lightning strikes
30 Metrical foot
31 Floppy
32 Choose
35 Jealousy with a twist?
39 Endeavor
40 Cathedral sections
41 Trunk spare
42 Goofed up
43 Too clever by half
45 Checkout cipher
48 Cake layer
49 Island ring
50 Portent
51 One place to surf
54 Elementally exasperated?
58 Square or granny
59 Grown-up
60 Yearning
61 Jazz sessions
62 Choir attire
63 Botanical anchor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By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

4/19/01

DOWN
1 Precious stones
2 Maui feast
3 Egg on
4 Stocking end
5 Fall flowers
6 Move menacingly
7 Fido's feet
8 Inventor Whitney
9 Final profit
10 Beleaguer
11 Chicago hub
12 Fathered, old-style
13 Auguries
18 Approach
19 Hurry up
23 Ruth or Zaharias
24 High times
25 In addition
26 Delta collection
27 Whisker
28 TV award
29 Foreshadowed
31 Earthen dike
32 Relating to the ear
33 Fringe benefit
34 Low card
36 Sign up
37 Scotland __
38 The slammer
42 Brilliant successes
43 Type of hose
44 French mathematician Descartes
45 Stands behind
46 Make amends
47 Mechanical man
48 Identifying name
50 Affront
51 Texas city on the Brazos
52 Resound
53 Red root vegetable
55 Old salt
56 Bridal vow
57 Much removed

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

C	A	P	R	A		W	H	O	L	E		D	D	T
D	R	I	E	S		H	O	N	O	R		O	O	O
R	I	N	G	S		O	P	E	R	A		G	O	B
O	S	T	I	A		W	I	D	E		A	C	M	E
M	E	S	S	I	N	A		A	N	E	M	O		
			P	L	E	N	T	Y		T	I	L	E	D
A	R	C	H		E	T	E			A	L	L	M	Y
R	E	O	I	L		S	E	C		L	L	A	M	A
K	E	L	L	Y			T	H	E		I	R	A	N
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R	U	I	N		L	E	N	D		S	A	S	H	A
I	T	S		G	O	F	O	R		S	I	T	E	D
P	A	T		S	W	I	N	E		E	R	A	T	O
A	H	S		A	N	T	O	N		R	E	S	T	S

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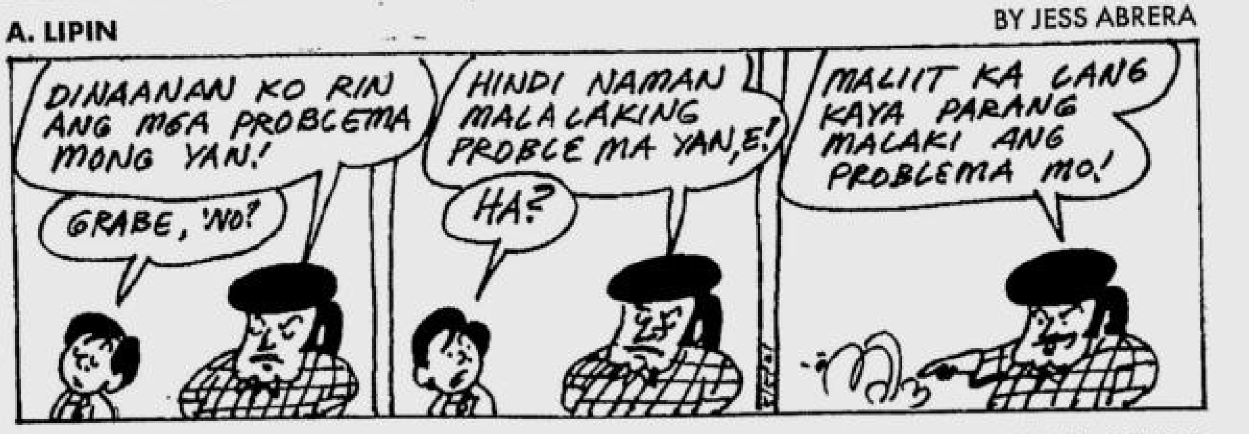
4/19/01

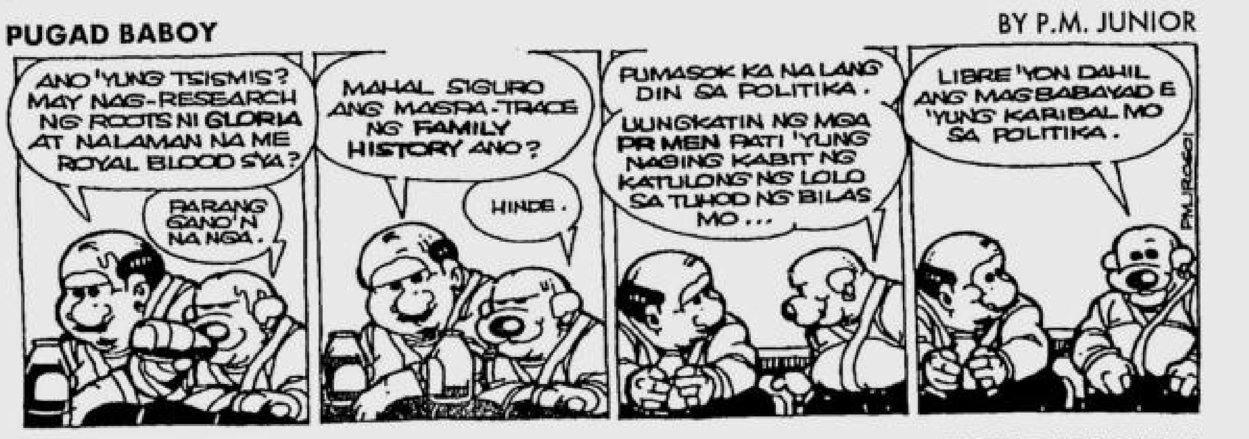
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


DINAANAN KO RIN ANG MGA PROBLEMA MONG YAN!
GRABE, 'NO?
HINDI NAMAN MALALAKING PROBLEMA YAN, E!
HA?
MALIIT KA LANG KAYA PARANG MALAKI ANG PROBLEMA MO!

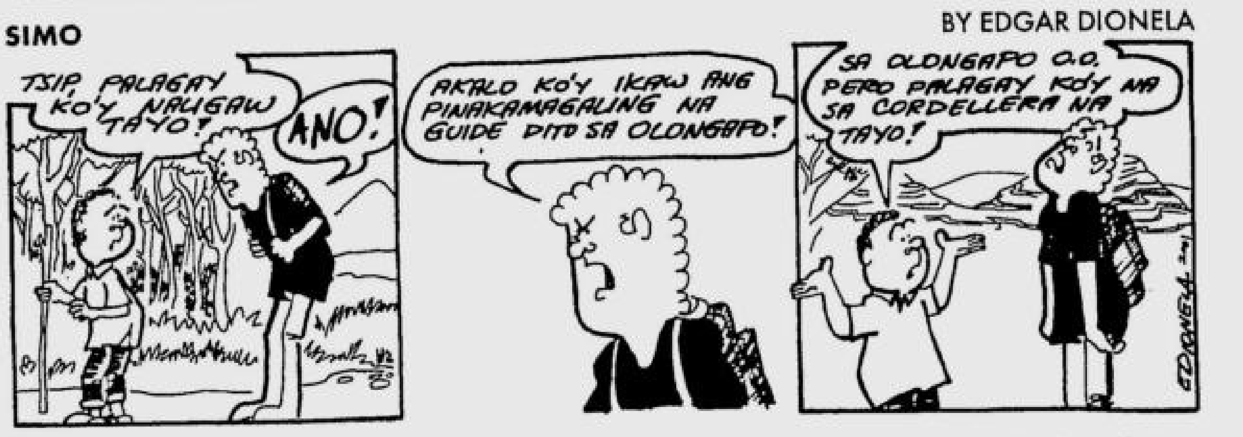
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO 'YUNG TSISMIS? MAY NAG-RESEARCH NG ROOTS NI GLORIA AT NALAMAN NA ME ROYAL BLOOD SYA?
PARANG GANO'N NA NGA.
MAHAL SIGURO ANG MAGPA-TRACE NG FAMILY HISTORY ANO?
HINDE.
PUMASOK KA NA LANG DIN SA POLITIKA.
UUNGKATIN NG MGA PR MEN PATI 'YUNG NAGING KABIT NG KATULONG NG LOLO SA TUHOD NG BILAS MO...
LIBRE 'YON DAHIL ANG MAGBABAYAD E 'YUNG KARIBAL MO SA POLITIKA.
PMJR

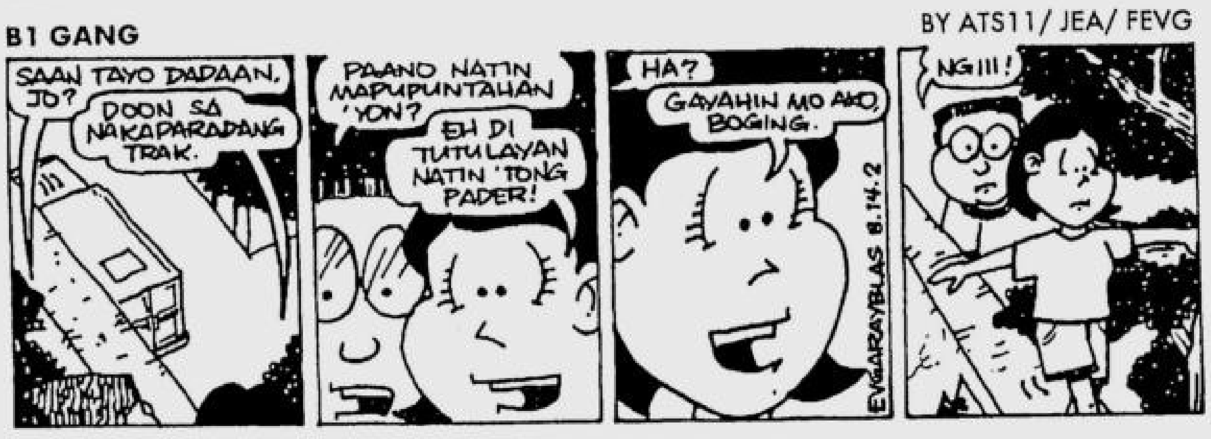
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


TSIP, PALAGAY KO'Y NALIGAW TAYO!
ANO!
AKALO KO'Y IKAW ANG PINAKAMAGALING NA GUIDE DITO SA OLONGAPO!
SA OLONGAPO O.O. PERO PALAGAY KO'Y NA SA CORDELLERA NA TAYO!
EDIONELA

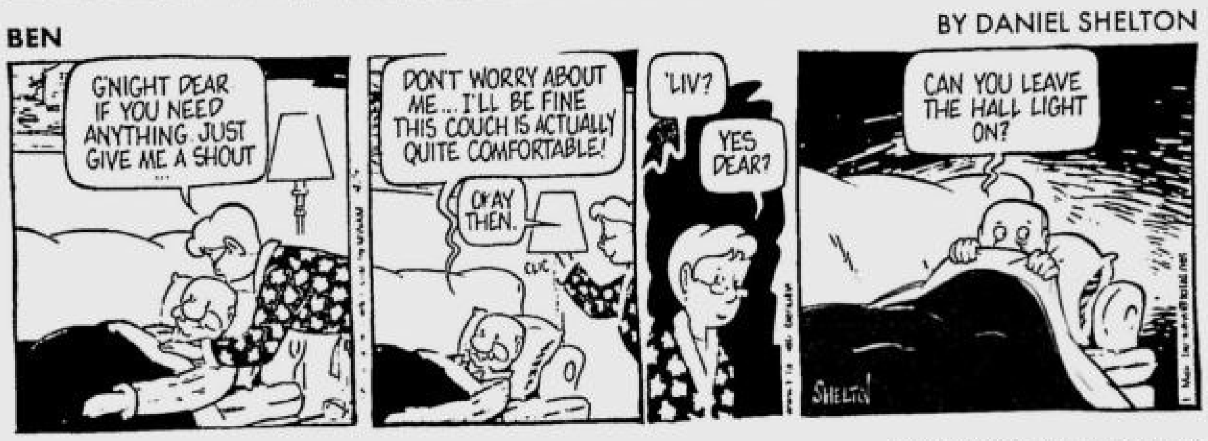
B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


SAAN TAYO DADAAN, JO?
DOON SA NAKAPARADANG TRAK.
PAANO NATIN MAPUPUNTAHAN 'YON?
EH DI TUTULAYAN NATIN 'TONG PADER!
HA?
GAYAHIN MO AKO, BOGING.
NGIII!
EVGARAYBLAS 8.14.2

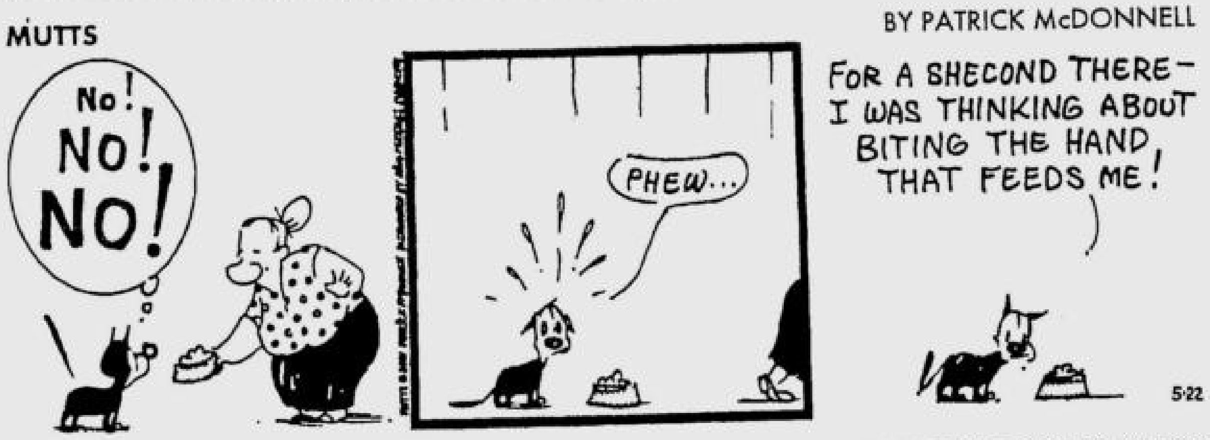
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


G'NIGHT DEAR IF YOU NEED ANYTHING JUST GIVE ME A SHOUT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME... I'LL BE FINE THIS COUCH IS ACTUALLY QUITE COMFORTABLE!
OKAY THEN.
CLIC
'LIV?
YES DEAR?
CAN YOU LEAVE THE HALL LIGHT ON?
SHELTON

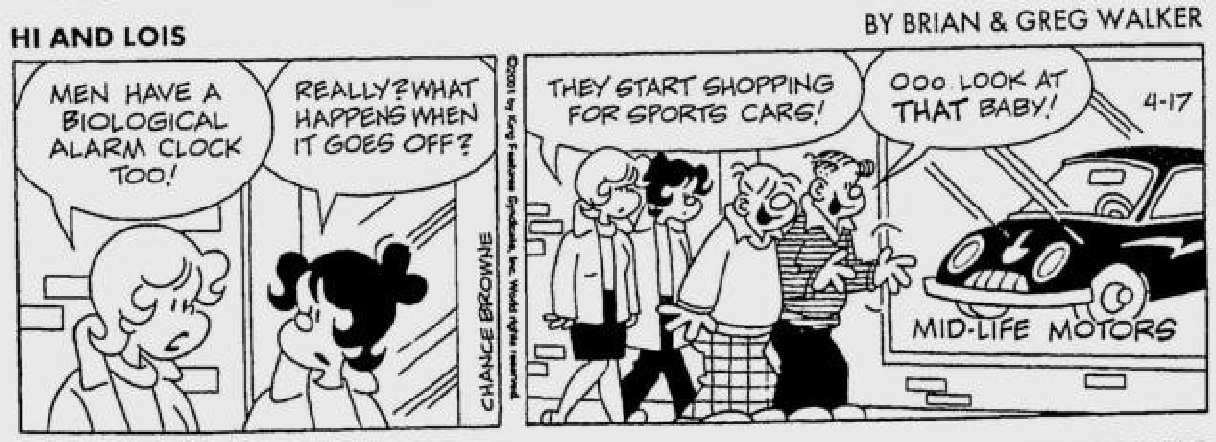
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


No! No! No!
PHEW...
FOR A SHECOND THERE— I WAS THINKING ABOUT BITING THE HAND THAT FEEDS ME!
5-22

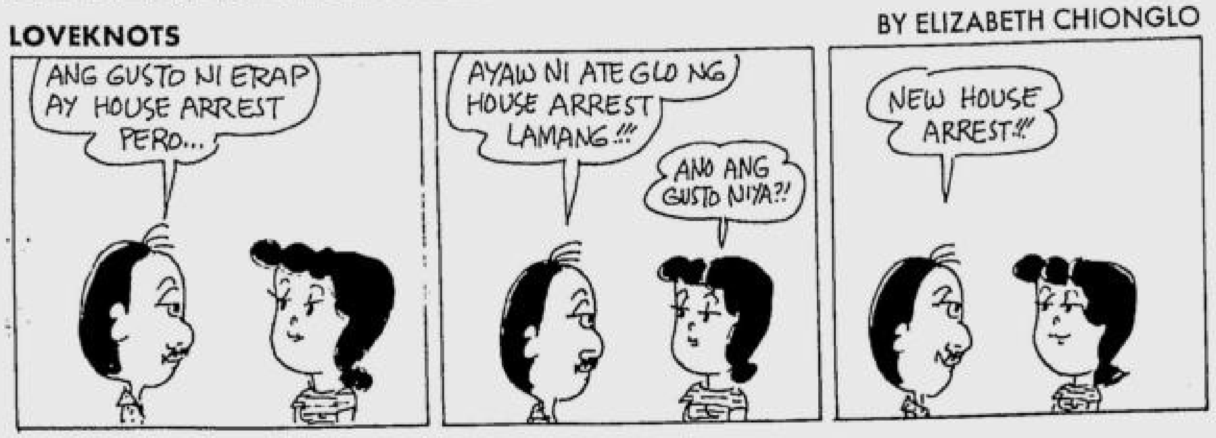
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


MEN HAVE A BIOLOGICAL ALARM CLOCK TOO!
REALLY? WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT GOES OFF?
CHANCE BROWNE
THEY START SHOPPING FOR SPORTS CARS!
OOO LOOK AT THAT BABY!
4-17
MID-LIFE MOTORS

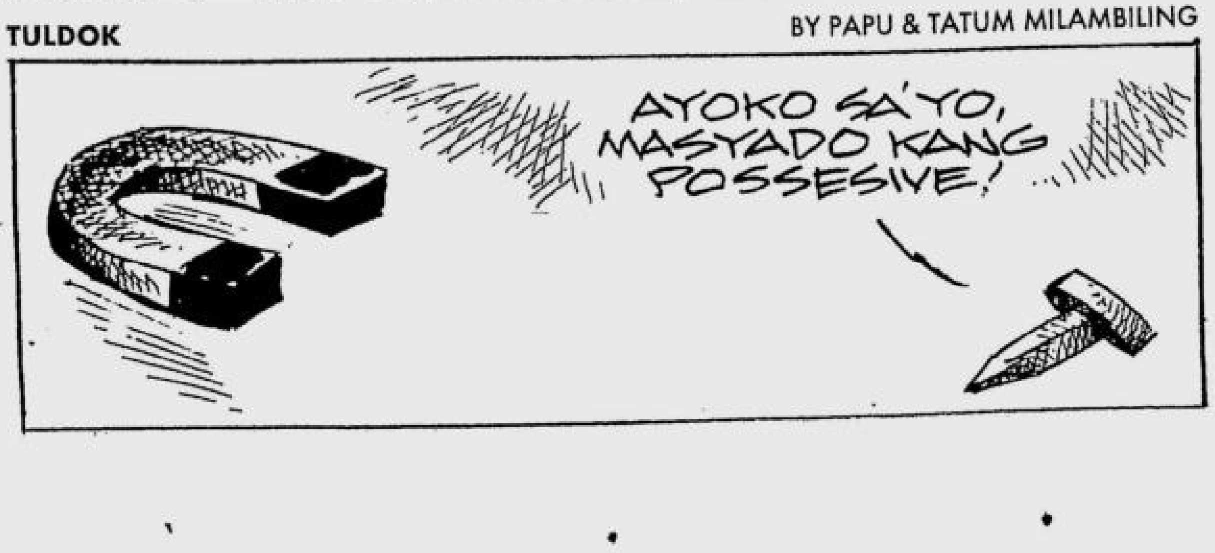
LOVEKNOTS

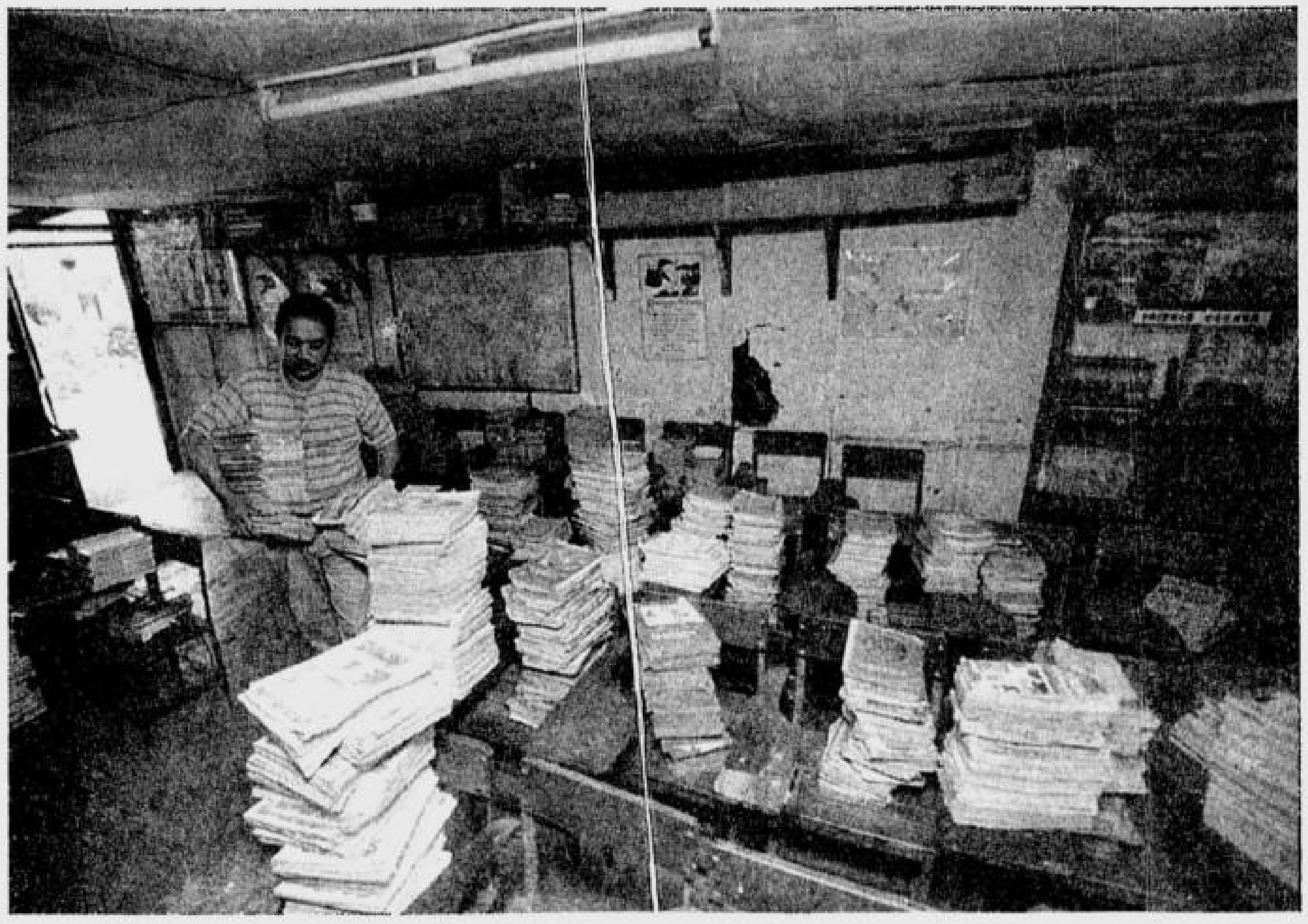
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


ANG GUSTO NI ERAP AY HOUSE ARREST PERO...
AYAW NI ATE GLO NG HOUSE ARREST LAMANG!!!
ANO ANG GUSTO NIYA?!
NEW HOUSE ARREST!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


AYOKO SA'YO, MASYADO KANG POSSESIVE!



PRINCIPAL WORKER
Working alone, Eduardo Lita on Sunday prepared the textbooks for distribution to pupils of the Isla Elementary School in Valenzuela City for yesterday's opening of classes. Lita is the school principal. EDWIN BACASMAS

Stampede!

SHOPPERS at SM City in Quezon City were hurt on Sunday when a fire alarm triggered a stampede.

Police said the fire alarm in the basement of the three-story mall was apparently turned on by unidentified pranksters about 6 p.m. Sunday, sending hundreds of shoppers into panic.

Witness Dyowel Espiritu said he was visiting his girl friend in one of the stalls in the Food Court when he heard the alarm.

He said people froze in their tracks for about three seconds and then started panicking.

Several mothers lost their children during the melee, Espiritu said.

He said a number shoppers on the mall escalators were also hurt during the rush. Most of those hurt were women and the elderly, Espiritu noted.

He claimed that instead of pacifying the crowd, mall security guards joined the rampaging crowd and even used their nightsticks to clear their way.

The Food Court was looted as some shoppers apparently helped themselves to the food laid on the counters, even as workers of the various food stalls remained in their stations, Espiritu said.

He said the crowd calmed down after about 15 minutes. Three members of the Central Police District also tried to pacify the crowd in the mall's parking lot. *Nelson F. Flores*

'Joseph Estrada' is dead

By Alcuin Papa

JOSEPH Estrada is dead. But he was not the former President.

This Joseph Estrada was a pedicab driver who was shot dead by still unidentified men while he was sleeping in his pedicab in Tondo, Manila, on Sunday.

The 38-year-old resident of the Parola Compound in Tondo died on the spot from a gunshot wound in the right temple, police said.

Investigation showed that Estrada was asleep in his pedicab, which was parked in front of his house when he suddenly fell to the ground at 1 p.m. A woman neighbor rushed to the unconscious Estrada and saw blood oozing from his right temple.

Neighbors brought him to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital where he died some three hours later, police said.

ZONTA CLUB OF MARIKINA
CELEBRATES WORLD SIGHT DAY

CLEAR VISION WITH ZONTA
The Zonta Club of Marikina, led by president Juanita Dumrique, and the Lions Club of Marikina recently held a joint vision screening and eye refraction and distributed 150 free eyeglasses to high school students in the city.

Two hard-up men commit suicide

By Agnes E. Donato

FINANCIAL problems drove two men to take their own lives in Pasig City.

Pedicab driver Rogelio Dumale, 45, early yesterday morning was found hanging by a nylon cord in his room in Barangay Manggahan, police said.

Dumale had been worried about his two children's rising school fees, according to SPO1 Roberto Garcia.

Dumale's wife Enriqueta, 42, told investigators that Dumale came home Sunday morning saying he was tired of living. She said Dumale had been trying to get a job abroad.

Dumale locked himself in his room, she said. She later heard her husband hammering inside the room but thought he was only fixing curtain hooks.

She said she did not sense that anything was amiss even when he did not come out of his room for supper.

She said she only got alarmed when she went to his room at about 4 a.m. yesterday to ask for money for the children's allowance since yesterday was the first day of classes. She knocked on the door and found the room locked.

She said she asked a minister from their church to help her open the door.

In another incident, a 25-year-old jobless man killed himself also by hanging after downing two bottles of liquor in his room on Sunday evening.

Police identified the victim as Rameses Ocinar, of P. Burgos Street, Barangay Katipunan, in Pasig.

RDC for Metro

THE METROPOLITAN Manila Development Authority will have a bigger role in bridging the gap between the rich and the poor of Metro Manila.

MMDA Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday said in a news conference that President Macapagal-Arroyo has allowed the setting up of a Regional Development Council (RDC) to facilitate the coordinated development of Metro Manila to avoid duplication and unnecessary expenditures.

Abalos said the success of the RDC would surely help bridge the gap between the prosperous and depressed areas of the metropolis.

"Consequently the gap between the poor and rich residents of Metro Manila will also be lessened," he said.

He said the formation of an RDC for Metro Manila was brought up during the previous meetings of the Metro Manila Council (MMC), the policy-making body of the MMDA.

He said the MMC will meet early next month to determine the responsibility and power of the RDC.

If approved by the MMC, the RDC would lay out plans and coordinate all development programs within Metro Manila. It would also have the power to review and rationalize all budgets, plans and programs of national government agencies for Metro Manila.

Abalos said the RDC would also spearhead and support the development of indigenous industries like the shoe making of Marikina, duck raising of Pateros, fish farming of Taguig, and the world-class manufacturing capabilities of Caloocan and Valenzuela, among others.

Nelson F. Flores

Teener, watchmen slain

By C.V. Esguerra

TWO MEN were senselessly killed in Quezon City Sunday night.

Ervin Morales, 22, an employee of Sta. Lucia Mall and resident of San Rafael Street, Balara, Quezon City, was shot pointblank for no apparent reason as he and his friends were on their way to a party at about 8:30 p.m., police said.

Police identified two of the suspects as Romeo Alcaraz, 18, and a 16-year-old boy, both residents of North Avenue, Quezon City.

A third man identified only as "Langka" was tagged as the gunman.

Morales and his friends were walking on Commonwealth Avenue on their way to a party at the Quezon Memorial Circle when they came upon Alcaraz's group, police said.

Alcaraz allegedly told Langka, "There he is, shoot him," referring to Morales.

The gunman allegedly aimed a homemade shotgun at Morales and shot him once in the back of the head, police said.

Police later arrested Alcaraz and his 16-year-old companion. Both are detained at the Central Police District Headquarters in Camp Karingal.

Three hours later, security guard Cesar Sabaria of West Bicutan, Taguig, was walking on Banawe Street when he chanced upon a dog and jokingly chased it, investigation showed.

But the dog's owner and several bystanders who saw him chasing the dog ganged up on him and stabbed him near the corner of Banawe and N. Domingo streets, police said.

The suspects remain at large.

Scavenger shoots scavenger

A SCAVENGER shot dead another scavenger during a row over garbage in a Valenzuela dumpsite on Sunday night.

Members of the Valenzuela Police Station Investigation and Intelligence Bureau said Cornelio Mosqueda, 38, a resident of Pinalagad, Barangay Malinta, Valenzuela, was shot in the face.

Mosqueda was seen arguing with a fellow scavenger while they were foraging in a dumpsite in Malinta, witnesses told police. Minutes later, a gunshot was heard from the dumpsite, police said.

Village watchmen found Mosqueda bleeding on the pavement. Police were still looking for the gunman. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Party-list group is No. 15

AKLAT (Aktibong Lapian Para sa Aklat), one of the 162 party-list and sectoral groups that ran in the May 14 elections, yesterday thanked their supporters.

The group said that as of the latest count by the Commission on Elections, Aklat was number 15 among those vying for the 52 seats in the House of Representatives.

Aklat first nominee Dominador D. Buhain said that based on the certificates of canvass tabulated by the Comelec, Aklat got 18,7[illegible]5 votes and ranked 4th among party-list groups in Negros Occidental; 9,303 votes, 2nd in Bacolod City; 7,727 votes, 9th in Cebu province; 3,803 votes, 8th in Cebu City; and 4,898 votes, 7th in Negros Oriental.

Buhain said Aklat also got 7,612 votes and ranked 6th in Iloilo province; 2,924 votes, 5th in Iloilo City; 2,372 votes, 8th in Aklan; 4,156 votes, 7th in Capiz.

Buhain said that with the remaining votes still uncanvassed, Aklat is confident of getting seats in the House of Representatives and of pursuing its efforts to increase the literacy rate, establish reading centers in barangays, help indigenous cultural communities and provide educational materials to schoolchildren.

Guard slain . . .

(From page A21)

One witness identified one of the attackers as Jaime Gonzales, through suspects' photographs shown to him by police.

Police later found one of the getaway vehicles-a gray Mitsubishi L-300 van (PYV [illegible]38)-abandoned on Maria Clara Street in Barangay Sto. Domingo, also in Quezon City.

Found in the van were a .32-caliber revolver and an ID card, investigators said.

The two other getaway vehicles were a green Toyota Revo van and a red Toyota car (UHE 298), investigators added.

They said the suspects were apparently members of the notorious Bonnet Gang that is responsible for a number of bank robberies in Metro Manila.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 5, 2001
9th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Th 2:9-14
Gospel: Mk 12:13-17

Jewish leaders sent to Jesus some Pharisees with members of Herod's party, with the purpose of trapping him in his own words. They came and said to Jesus, "Master, we know that you are true; you are not influenced by anyone, and your answers do not vary according to who is listening to you but you truly teach God's way. Tell us, is it against the Law to pay taxes to Caesar? Should we pay them or not?"

But Jesus saw through their trick and answered, "Why are you testing me? Bring me a silver coin and let me see it." They brought him one and Jesus asked, "Whose head is this, and whose name?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said, "Return to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

And they were greatly astonished.

Commentary:

There are many books written about the relationship between Church and State while commenting on this text. However, I am not sure if Jesus spoke about this or he simply laughed in a very subtle way at the people who wanted him to walk into a trap. After all, what is it that belongs to Caesar and not to God? Can we consider God and Caesar as rivals? That will be extremely degrading to God. Is there anything that belongs exclusively to Caesar? Isn't it that public position is service to society and for the common good? There is nothing that is Caesar's which is not ours at the same time. It is better that each one of us be responsible for the conduct of this God-given gift of life.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Conviction based on circumstantial evidence—A conviction based on circumstantial evidence would be proper if its requisites concur, i.e., (1) there is more than just one circumstance in attendance; (2) the facts from which inferences can be derived are adequately proven; and (3) the combination of all the circumstances is such as to produce a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. These circumstances must be consistent with the hypothesis that the accused is guilty of the crime sought to be established and can lead to no rational assumption that may be congruent with the innocence of the accused. In the case at bench, the prosecution succeeded in putting up together not one but several pieces of circumstantial evidence. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Vitug, People v. Moyong, G.R. No. 135413-15, November 15, 2000].

Digest by R.B. Vera

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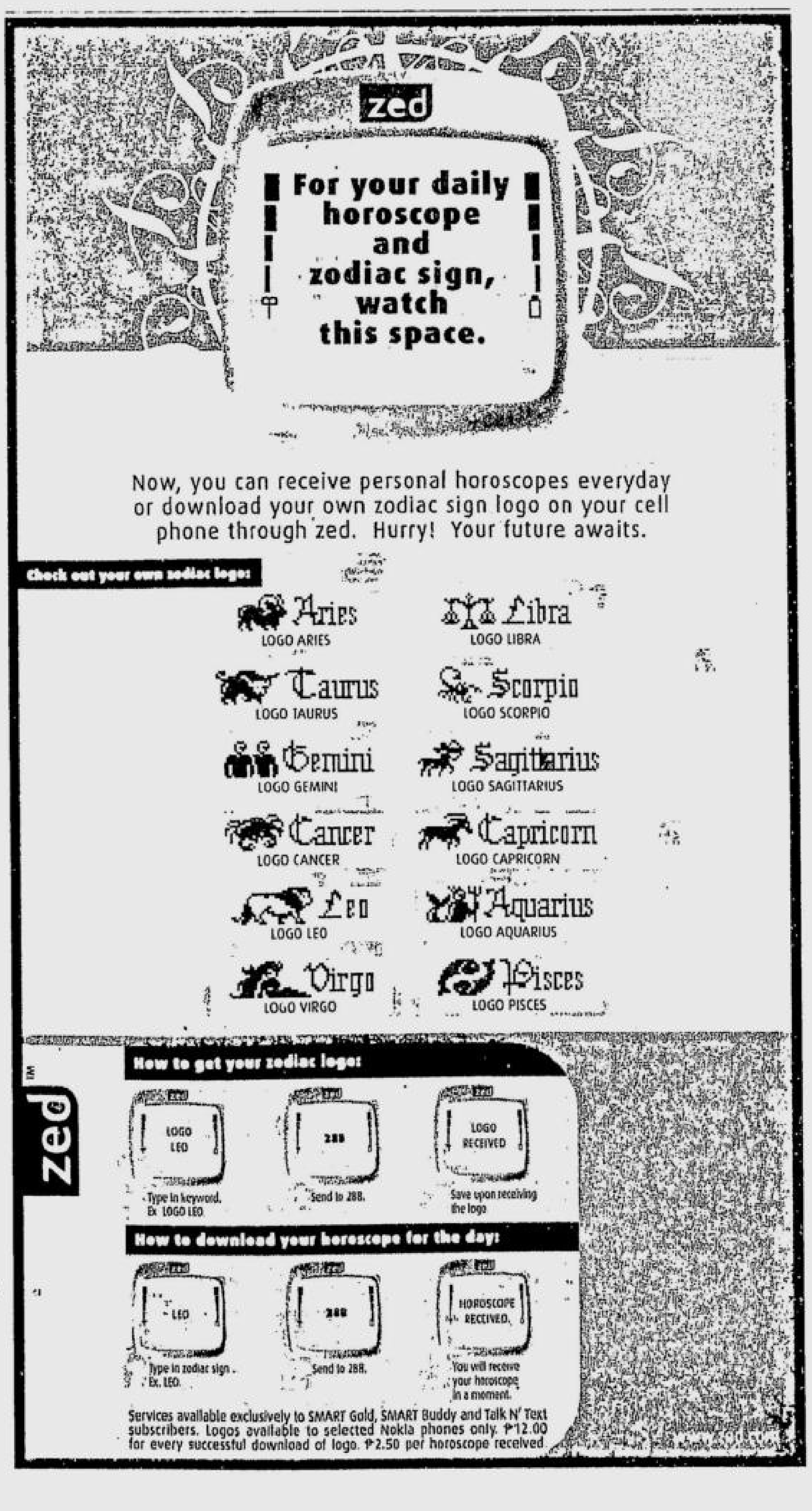
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4	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001

SM CENTERPOINT 7149522 • 7161416

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2	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURN
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 9350749

1	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	DOLBY SURROUND	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
5	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURN
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CUT AWAY
9	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
11	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CITY MANILA 5239240

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANGEL EYES
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	CUT AWAY
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASURA 2001
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURN
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR 8820950

1	ULTRA SURROUND	MAPAGBIGAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN

SM MEGAMALL 6331901 • 6329401

1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TRAFFIC
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY

SM CITY NORTH EDSA 9295452

1	DOLBY SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
2	DOLBY SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CUT AWAY
4	DOLBY SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	TRAFFIC
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
7	DTS	THE MUMMY RETURN
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	THE MUMMY RETURN
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
12	DOLBY SURROUND	VALENTINE

SM SOUTHMALL 8066888 • 8066782

1	ULTRA SURROUND	TRAFFIC
2	ULTRA SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURN
4	ULTRA SURROUND	CUT AWAY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VALENTINE
7	ULTRA SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	ANGEL EYES
9	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

TUTUBAN CENTER 2514302

1	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANGEL EYES
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ALAS DOSE
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS

SM CEBU 2313876

1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
3	ULTRA SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
5	ULTRA SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
6	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THWE MUMMY RETURN

SM ILOILO 3209422

1	ULTRA SURROUND	PILAK
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4	ULTRA SURROUND	LUCKY NUMBERS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	ULTRA SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	CROUCHING TIGER

SM PAMPANGA 7125015

1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TRAFFIC
3	DOLBY SURROUND	KAMASUTRA 2001
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	BALIKTARAN
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CARTA ALAS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	THE MUMMY RETURN

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3	THE MUMMY RETURN THX In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere) Art Film In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	SOMEONE LIKE YOU In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE MUMMY RETURN In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	TRAFFIC In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	ALL THE PRETTY HORSES (Phil. Premiere) In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE MUMMY RETURN In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ANGEL EYES In DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4	MARTIN NIEVERA LIVE June 8-9 9PM Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER

1	THE MUMMY RETURN THX In DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2	ANGEL EYES In DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE MUMMY RETURN In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ALAS DOSE In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	CUT AWAY In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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3 (DTS)	SOMEONE LIKE YOU
4 GOLD (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES
6 GOLD (SDDS)	CUT AWAY
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
8 [illegible]	THE POSSESSED
9 [illegible]	SPY KIDS
10 [illegible]	ALAS DOSE

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	CARTA ALAS
2	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
3 (DTS)	SAY IT ISN'T SO
4	
5	QUILLS
6 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
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1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	CARTA ALAS

Masagana CINEMA
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1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	CARTA ALAS

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	ANGEL EYES
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURN
5	KAMASUTRA 2001

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	ALAS DOSE
2	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
3	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	CARTA ALAS
6	THE MUMMY RETURN
7	ANGEL EYES
8	CUT AWAY

LOUIE'S CINEMA THX
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Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	BALIKTARAN
2	EXIT WOUNDS

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1	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	THE MUMMY RETURN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	CARTA ALAS
A	NEGLIGEE

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	CARTA ALAS
3	SAMBAHIN ANG PURI KO
4	ALAS DOSE

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	CUT AWAY
5	KAMASUTRA 2001
6	CARTA ALAS
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
8 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
9 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ALAS DOSE

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	ALAS DOSE
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS
4 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
5	TRAFFIC
6 (DOLBY)	ANGEL EYES
7 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	ALAS DOSE
3	KAMASUTRA 200'
4	RESERVE
5 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
6	CUT AWAY
7 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
8	CARTA ALAS

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3 (DTS)	CUT AWAY
4	CARTA ALAS
5 (SDDS)	THE MUMMY RETURN

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ALAS DOSE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ALAS DOSE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	FEMALE ANIMALS
Lords	CARTA ALAS
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	RESERVE
4	CARTA ALAS

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	ALAS DOSE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	CARTA ALAS
3	NEGLIGEE
4	ALAS DOSE
5	ANGEL EYES

New Divisoria Mall
CINEMA tel 244.4619

1	ALAS DOSE
2	CARTA ALAS
3	THE MUMMY RETURN
4	NEGLIGEE
5	DALAWA SI EBA
6	MASARAP UNANG KAGAT

Baclaran LRT
CINEMA tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	CARTA ALAS
4	
5	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	CARTA ALAS
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	ALAS DOSE
2 (DTS)	VALENTINE
3 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
4	CARTA ALAS

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	CARTA ALAS
2	NEGLIGEE
3	ALAS DOSE
4 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	ALAS DOSE
3 (DTS)	VALENTINE
4	CARTA ALAS
5	THE POSSESSED

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	CARTA ALAS
3	ALAS DOSE

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	BALIKTARAN
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	EVANGELINE 14

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511 9736

1	THE MUMMY RETURN
2	ALAS DOSE
3	CARTA ALAS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	CARTA ALAS
2 (DTS)	ALAS DOSE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	ALAS DOSE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ALAS DOSE
2	THE MUMMY RETURN
3	CARTA ALAS

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	TRAFFIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	KAMASUTRA 2001
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SPY KIDS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	THE MUMMY RETURN
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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ODEON-2	THE MUMMY RETURN
ROBEN	CARTA ALAS
TANDEM-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA
TANDEM-2	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
TIMES	LOST / HARD BULLET

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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	CARTA ALAS
REMAR	ALAS DOSE
REMAR-2	THE MUMMY RETURN

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CINEMA-3	KAMASUTRA 2001
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-6	VALENTINE
CINEMA-7	SPY KIDS
CINEMA-8	NARINIG MO NA BA ANG LATEST
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-12	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-14	CUT AWAY
CINEMA-15	ALAS DOSE

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

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CINEMA-2	ANGEL EYES
CINEMA-3	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-4	TRAFFIC
CINEMA-5	THE MUMMY RETURN
CINEMA-6	SPY KIDS

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(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	KUNG LILIGAYA KA . .
CINEMA-2	WANTED GRO
CINEMA-4	SWEET NOVEMBER

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

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CINEMA-1	BODY TO BODY
CINEMA-2	LAGARISTA
CINEMA-4	BAIT

DIAZ

'Sunshine Girl' Rio Diaz speaks of faith

SINCE Rio Diaz-Cojuangco, former vice mayor of Pontevedra, Negros Occidental, was stricken with advanced-stage cancer in 1998, she has had two periods of remission. She has been so fit that she even helped campaign for her husband Charlie Cojuangco, who won a second term as congressman of the fourth district of the province.

Rio spoke rousing words of faith and encouragement for other cancer victims during an interview by Carla Martinez on "The Club," a Christian magazine-type program aired live every Wednesday on GMA 7 at midnight.

"I want you to know that God loves you, never makes mistakes and is in full control," Rio said. "They say I'm a brave person, strong, encouraging. But all I did was to get on my knees and say, 'Jesus, I can't handle this. I don't know what to do. My children are so small. I abandon all my fears to you. No one can help me or comfort me the way you can. Help me.' The moment I did that, the peace that surpasses all understanding just filled me."

Rio will be leaving for the US this week for another round of tests at the Stanford University Cancer Center. During her last round of chemotherapy at Stanford eight months ago, the nurses at the Cancer Center referred to Rio as a "burst of sunlight."

"They called her 'The Sunshine Girl,'" related Rio's long-time friend Dang Cecilio-Palanca, who often played driver, nurse and comforter to her.

During the grueling four- to six-hour chemo sessions, Rio often listened to Christian praise songs. "She always smiled as she sang along," Dang related, "with tears in her eyes."

Rio prizes moments she spends at home with Charlie and her children Jaime, 4; Claudia, 6; and Ali, 18. "Contrary to what some people say, the Christian life is fun and exciting," she said.

She has so far enjoyed eight months of remission and is asking the prayer support of her close Christian friends as she prepares for her next Stanford visit.

"The Club" is replayed every Sunday also on GMA at 7:30 a.m. and every Tuesday on ZOE 11 at 11 p.m.

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Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

All about mummies

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IT MAY be purely coincidental, but it's interesting to note that, just as "The Mummy Returns" is playing to SRO audiences in Metro Manila, the BBC World Channel is holdings its "Mummies Week" with various programs on the preservation of human bodies through the centuries.

In one of those shows, the weird story of **Evita Peron**'s mummified body was told: After she died, her husband commissioned a man famous for making dead bodies look exceedingly lifelike for decades to work his wonders on Argentina's "sainted" First Lady.

Shots of Evita's mummified body showed how the expert had surpassed himself: She looked like she was only sleeping! How did he achieve this amazing effect? His process involved removing as much water as possible from the corpse, and replacing it with wax.

When Peron died, years later, Evita's mummified body was displayed alongside his, and everyone marvelled at her perfectly preserved state.

Unfortunately, political upheavals led to Evita's mummy being threatened with destruction, so it had to be spirited out and buried under the fictitious name of Maria Maggi.

The program on mummies also focused on the Fragonard Museum, where mummies were displayed that had been opened up to reveal musculature, veins and bone.

But the most unusual feature of all was on a German, Dr. **Van Hagen**, who combined science and art by not just mummifying corpses but cutting them up in various exotic ways. Some of his "artistic" mummies looked practically like abstractions!

Some people who saw his exhibit branded it as a breach of human dignity. Others, however, loved it so much that they expressed the wish to also be mummified by Dr. Van Hagen in this shockingly "artistic" manner.

Why this reaction? The program speculated that mummies fascinate people because, in a way, they have cheated death, and have achieved a kind of immortality, a state of being that many want to achieve.

Dovetailing back to the box-office success of "The Mummy Returns," the program opined that we love to get scared because it gets the adrenaline going.

Films about mummies scare us, but they also tantalize us. Beyond the fear, there's envy.

And: Mummies are important because they are "veritable libraries of long-vanished traditions, histories of vanished civilizations written in skin and bone."

TV treats

FRIDAY, June 8 at 6 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, sail along the rivers of China, Cambodia, England and Norway in "The History of Water Episode: Making Water Work." (Replay is on Saturday, June 9 at 4 a.m.)

Witness history in the making as Chinese engineers construct the biggest dam ever, the Three Gorges Dam. Travel down the Mekong River in Cambodia, explore the canals of 18th-century England, and view the spectacular waterfalls of Norway.

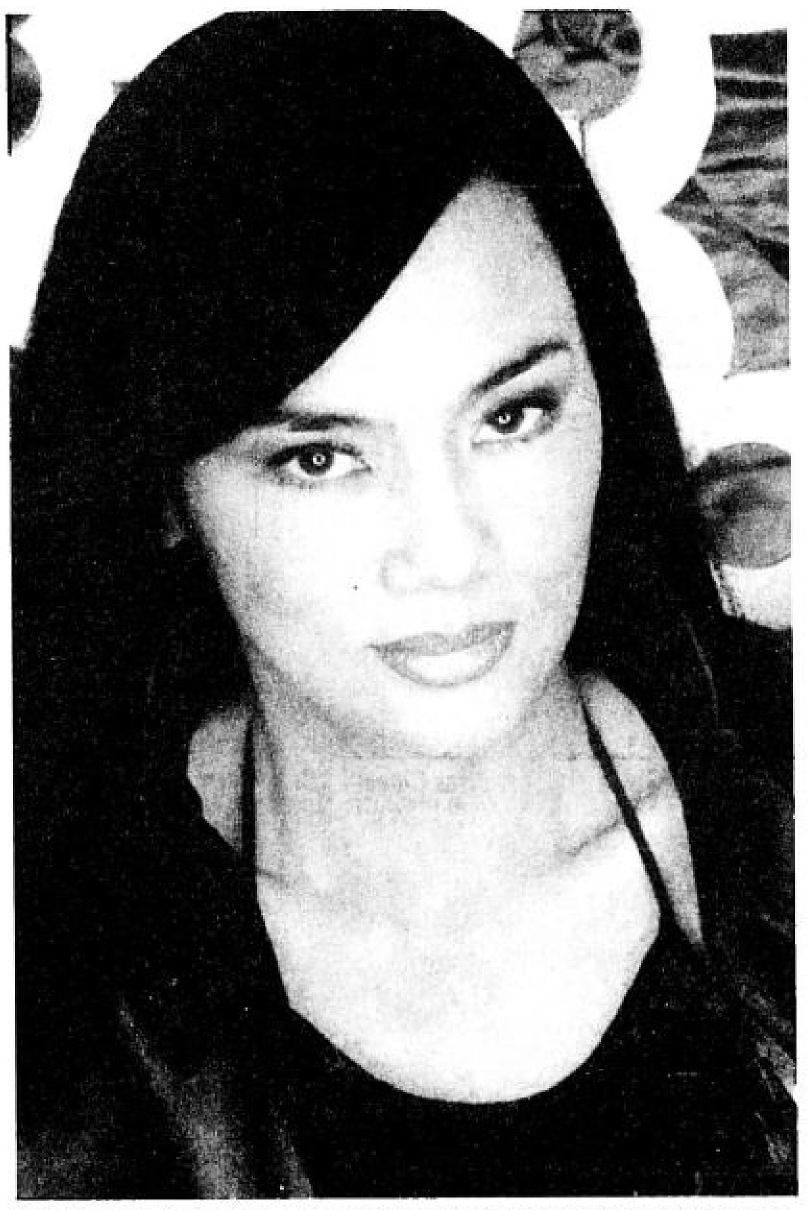
At 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, "Chance to Grow" shows how three newborn babies cling to life in a neonatal intensive care unit and manage to survive, thanks to the unit's expert medical team and the love of their parents.

Award-winning filmmaker and specialist nurse **Claire Marie Panke** follows three families as they learn to touch and love two-pound newborns hooked to life-saving equipment. Panke illuminates the controversial issues of medical ethics that play out on a daily basis in the special ICUs that take care of premature infants.

She shares: "Most parents want aggressive treatment, but sometimes that gets the baby out, but not intact. You have to struggle with every decision you make."

Kuh mixes politics and music

BY MARINEL R. CRUZ



COUP casting has Kuh Ledesma singing Streisand with Regine Velasquez, Chad Borja and Joey Generoso.

POLITICS in a musical concert?

Pop diva Kuh Ledesma announced that her one-night show "Kuh Sings Streisand" at the Fiesta Pavilion of the Manila Hotel on June 29 will be a fusion of "love, life—and politics."

Kuh said she will attempt to stir the emotions of the audience as she touches on current political issues and her love of public service and she will try to blend these with Barbra Streisand's music.

"I'd like to talk about Streisand as a model in her field" Kuh told the press recently at the Roma Salon of the Manila Hotel. "She is a model of excellence as an artist and has become an inspiration for me to really do well."

Manila Hotel, she said, had long wanted her to do a show full of Streisand music. But the singer who is an advocate of the rights of what she calls the "underrepresented" sector of society said she wanted to put social relevance into the show, even if it's all Streisand.

"What's the point of fighting for a cause and not bringing it out to our art," said the nominee of the party-list group Pinatubo which stood in the May 14 elections. "I think it will appear to be pointless if after I sing Barbra Streisand I say good night to everybody, *wala man lang silang napulot*."

Rey Cristobal will be the musical director of "Kuh Sings Streisand," and an eight-piece string ensemble will back up the politicized singer.

Also performing in the show are Regine Velasquez, Chad Borja and Side A main man Joey Generoso.

"She is my favorite *ka*-duet," Kuh said of Regine. "She knows her music, *at saka walang arte*."

A focused and determined person that she is, Kuh admitted she feels scared whenever she goes on stage with an unprepared partner. "I don't want to leave my partner with me feeling that something's still lacking."

Kuh is also preparing for her anniversary concert, tentatively set for October and titled "Ayoko ng Third World."

"Who wants to live in a third world country?" she said, explaining the title. "Do we want to be third world in our way of thinking and in our elections?"

Kuh is also gathering materials for an album even as she continues to run Republic of Malate, one of the entertainment landmarks of the Malate area.

She said it has been a while since she came out with an album because "it's hard to find materials that can really inspire you."

Disco to raise funds for chapel

GEORGE and the Flying Fish, an upcoming band from Cebu and Bohol, will perform in a fund-raising party for the benefit of the Servants of Christ the King Seminary Chapel.

Organized by Fr. Manuel "Bong" Bongayan, SVD, the benefit-disco-dance party "KOD (Keep on Danding) for the King" will also feature other known entertainers.

The party will be held at the Platinum Music City on the 15th floor of the Atrium Hotel at the Taft Centrale Exchange Mall on Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay City. For inquiries, call the venue's Marketing and Communications unit at 552.0351 local 1519.

Celebration opens new Baguio shopping venue

COOYEESAN Hotel Plaza, the newest-shopping venue in Baguio City, opened on Sunday with a whole-day event that included a ribbon-cutting rite, a motorcade and a variety show.

Polo Ravales, Ann Curtis, Chubi del Rosario, Janet McBride, 8-OM and The Real Groove joined the festivities.

The celebration continues on June 9 at 3 p.m. at the new venue's Atrium, with the cast of "Tabing Ilog"—Carol Banawa, John Lloyd Cruz and Baron Geisler—together with the DTM Dancers.

On June 17, "Fashion Exposé" features Manila's finest models. On June 24, the celebration is capped by a show featuring Danilo Barrios, Rafael Rossell, Luis Alandy and Michelle Bayle of the ABS-CBN Talent Center.

Talents Manila is organizing the celebration.

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TRAFFIC - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00	MUMMY RETURN - P 13 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30	SPY KIDS - G 1:00, 3:00, 5:00

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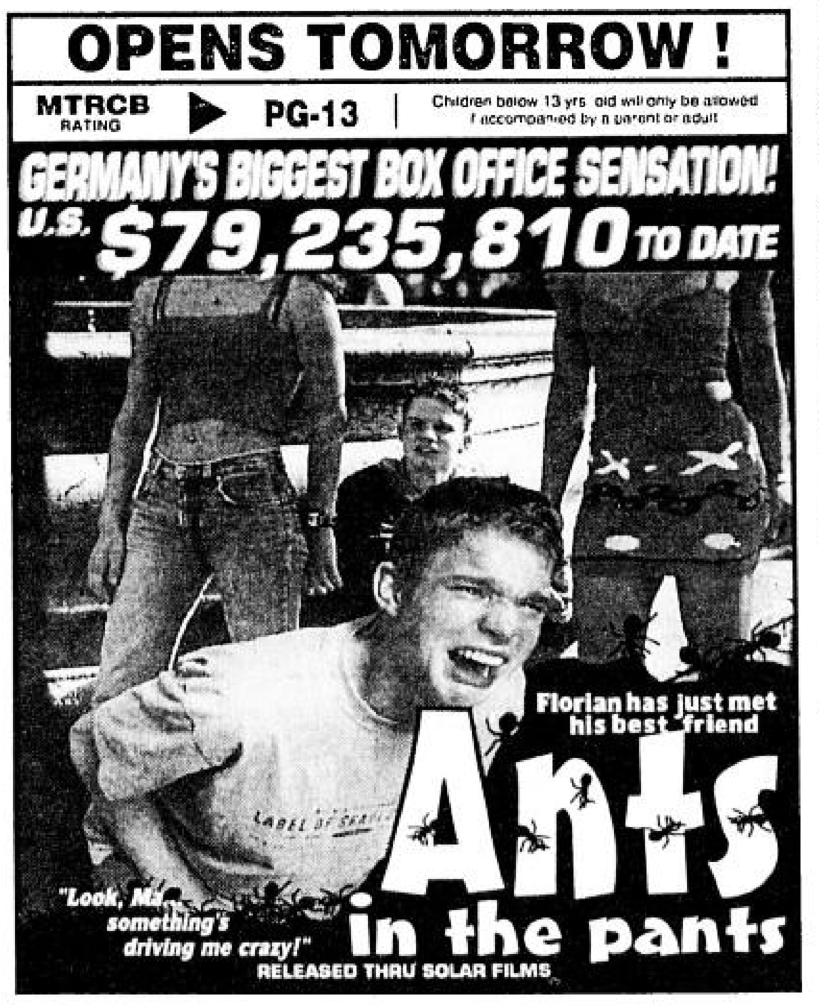

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ENTERTAINMENT
LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Burger chain to promote 'Lord of the Rings' movie

LOS ANGELES—New Line Cinema's "The Lord of the Rings" has just got a tasty new partner. Fast-food giant Burger King has signed on for the launch of a worldwide promotion for the movie.

New Line said the deal with the fast-food chain was its largest promotional agreement ever, and one of Burger King's largest campaigns.

Burger King will feature characters from "The Lord of the Rings" in more than 10,000 of its restaurants worldwide.

The first of the trilogy, "The Fellowship of the Rings," is due to hit theaters on Dec. 19.

The trilogy cast includes Elijah Wood, Ian McKellen, Sean Bean, Christopher Lee and Liv Tyler and is stuffed to the brim with special effects.

Hanson directs Eminem

ACADEMY Award-winning director Curtis Hanson has signed on to direct and produce "Fight Song," starring controversial Grammy-winning rapper Eminem, the Hollywood Reporter said Thursday.

Loosely based on the life of Marshall Mathers, the story follows a young white rapper growing up in Detroit, the trade journal said.

Producers aim to have the project in production by late summer or early fall, the Reporter said.

'Shrek' sequel

QUESTION: If a movie grosses $112 million in its first two weeks of release, what can be expected to follow?

Correct.

DreamWorks announced Thursday it will do a sequel to "Shrek," its critically and financially successful computer-animated comedy.

"Shrek" features the voices of Mike Myers as the title character, Eddie Murphy as a donkey, Cameron Diaz as a princess and John Lithgow as a short tyrant.

"Shrek" cost a relatively modest $48 million to make, with another $100 million spent by DreamWorks and partners such as Chevron and Burger King to promote it.

Animated 'Battlefield'

FILM critic Roger Ebert described watching it as "like taking a bus trip with someone who has needed a bath for a long time."

"It's not merely bad; it's unpleasant in a hostile way."

Starring John Travolta, the L. Ron Hubbard-inspired "Battlefield Earth" of last year has been rated as one of the worst movies of all time.

Hubbard's licensing group Author Services now plans a cartoon version, with 13 animated episodes based on the book and the film, website Zap2it.com reported Thursday.

Author Services spokesperson Javier Ruiz said the cartoon would feature "an explosion of anime color and graphic detail" in the manga style, the comic books that provide the basis for much Japanese animation, Zap2it.com says.

Dan Haggerty ("Grizzly Adams") will provide the voice of Terl, the dreadlocked Psychlo villain played by Travolta in the movie.

Chow Yun-Fat has been named as a possible voice for non-English versions.

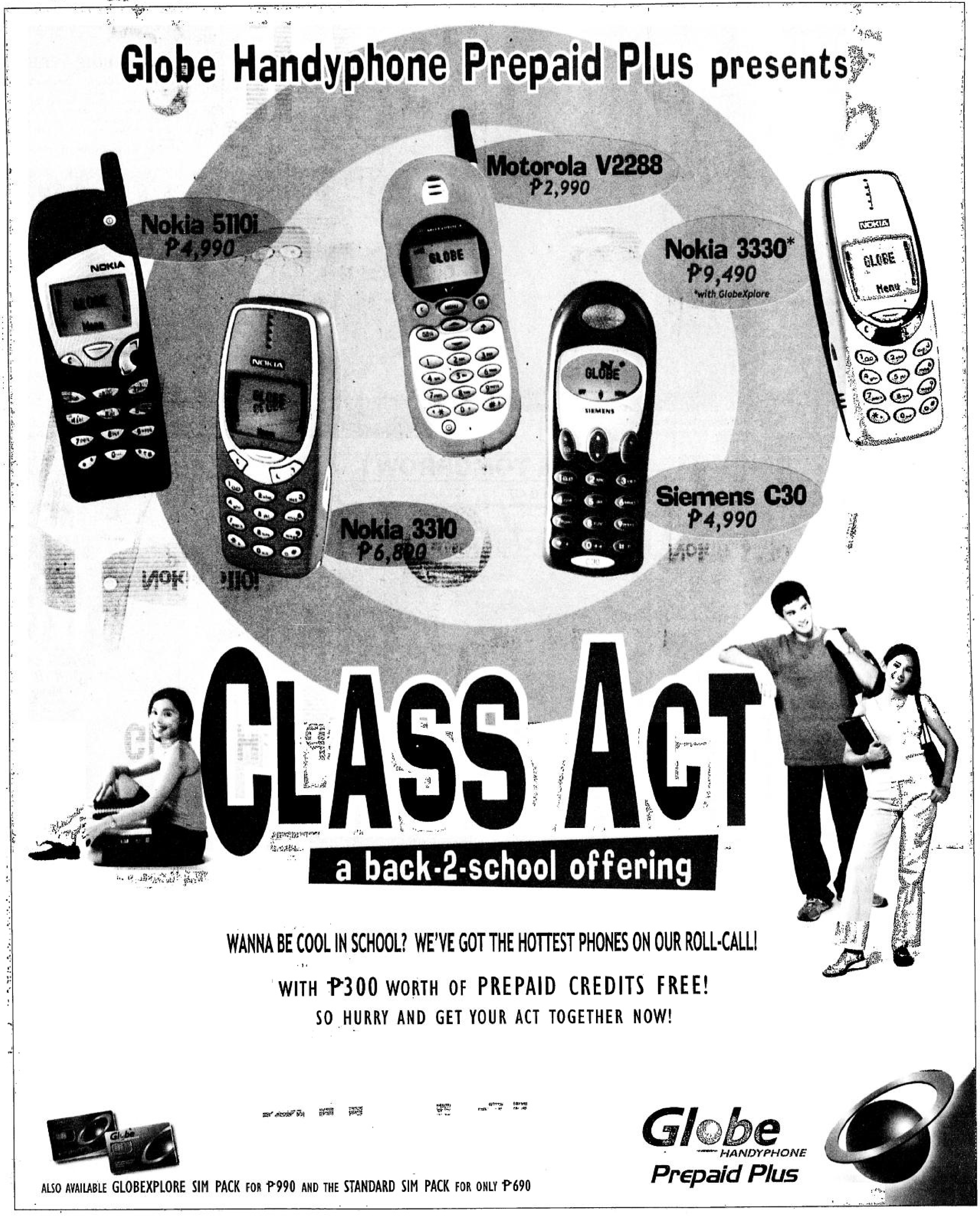
Talent search

FOLLOWING a "C" grade from a coalition of minority groups, including the American Indians in Film and Television, NBC, joined by the Oneida Indian Nation, is launching a talent search for Native American actors, comedians and writers.

The Four Directions Talent Search aims to increase native representation in television, and will take place across the United States and Canada, Zap2it.com reported Thursday.

"Breaking into films, television, or live theater is difficult for anyone," says Ray Halbritter of the Oneida Nation said. "It is especially difficult for Native Americans who may have talent but never have had access to the opportunities."

The search begins with regional showcases in August and culminates in November with a final competition in New York City. *AFP*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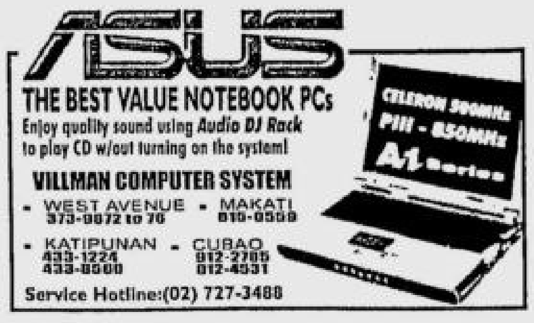
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BUSINESS

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor ■ **CORRIE S. NARISMA**, Assistant Editor

April exports down 15.8%; prospects remain bleak

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

THE COUNTRY'S export earnings fell for the third consecutive month in April by 15.8 percent, the sharpest year-on-year decline recorded since 1975, as the slowdown in the US and Japanese economies further weakened the local electronics sector.

Economists have said exports would be weak this year because of an expected slowdown in US economic growth and a cyclical downturn in the electronics industry.

After a double-digit year-on-year drop in exports during the political turmoil in January, export revenues have continued falling between 3 and 4 percent in February and March.

As the export sector is a major engine of growth that accounts for more than a third of national income, a continuing slowdown is seen to further weigh down prospects for the country's economic performance.

Analysts noted that lower dollar inflow from exports might result in further depreciation of the peso against the dollar and in deterioration in the balance of payments (BOP), although these might somehow be offset by the similarly lower import requirements.

The National Statistics Office yesterday reported that earnings from merchandise exports stood at $2.25 billion in April, down from $2.67 billion in the same month last year. From January to April, the overall contraction in total receipts stood at 4.1 percent, with total export receipts reaching $10.81 billion compared with $11.27 billion during the same four-month period last year.

This developed as Philippine exporters continued to be dependent on the United States and Japan. Export earnings from the United States dropped by 13.4 percent while shipments to Japan fell by 14.6 percent in April. The two countries accounted for 29.6 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively, of total export earnings during the month.

Receipts from the country's other big markets such as the Netherlands and Taiwan also contracted during the period.

Earnings from electronics, consistently the country's biggest export winner, dropped by 28 percent to $1.09 billion in April from the year-ago figure. However, the sector still accounted for 48.4 percent of total export revenue for the month.

Garments remained as the second top earner with a share of 8.1 percent and receipts of $181.74 million, or 6.7 percent higher than the $170.34 million in April 2000.

Receipts from manufactured goods, accounting for 87.2 percent of the total, dropped by 15.9 percent to $1.96 billion. Income from agro-based products accounted for only 6 percent of the total, 22-percent lower than the year-ago level.

Economist Mario Lamberte, president of government think tank Philippine Institute for Development Studies, said the deteriorating export performance was expected due to the continuing downturn in the US and Japanese economies. Should this slowdown also reflect a decline in export volumes, he said it might eventually lead to a decline in the employment level.

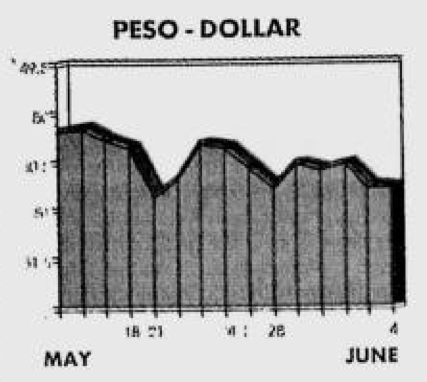
"The peso will also continue to be driven by sentiment because we don't expect much earnings from exports," Lamberte said.

Asked if there was anything the government could do to temper the slowdown, Lamberte said: "Pump-

APRIL/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



Peso-Dollar Rate

₱50.765 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 4, 2001

¥119.34 = $1

The US dollar was trading at 119.34 as of 5 p.m., June 4, 2001

GOLD:$266.30/266.80

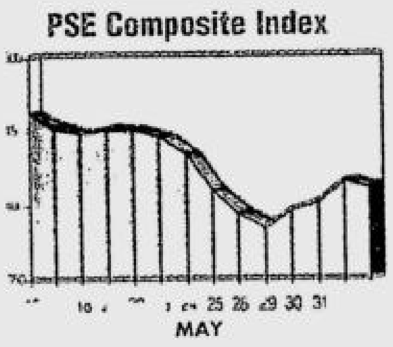
per ounce Hong Kong, June 4, 2001

June 4, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.179802	1.000000	50.6330
Japan	Yen	0.009901	0.008392	0.4249
United Kingdom	Pound	1.676852	1.421300	71.9647
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.151268	0.128215	6.4919
Switzerland	Franc	0.657417	0.557227	28.2141
Canada	Dollar	0.769252	0.652018	33.0136
Singapore	Dollar	0.650746	0.551572	27.9277
Australia	Dollar	0.600408	0.508906	25.7674
Bahrain	Dinar	3.129614	2.652661	134.3122
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.314588	0.266645	13.5010
Brunei	Dollar	0.650387	0.551268	27.9124
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000104	0.000088	0.0045
Thailand	Baht	0.026010	0.022046	1.1163
UAE	Dirham	0.321253	0.272294	13.7871
Korea	Won	0.000920	0.000780	0.0395
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.847600	42.9165
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.433371	21.9429
France	Franc	0.152450	0.129216	6.5426
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.384624	19.4747
Austria	Schilling	0.072672	0.061597	3.1188
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.021011	1.0638
Italy	Lire	0.000517	0.000438	0.0222
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.142556	7.2180
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004228	0.2141
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005094	0.2579
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.021011	1.0638
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.07623	54.4928

STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower



(See stock market report on Page B4)

Shares inched lower yesterday, weighed down by losses of blue chips Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Manila Electric Co., traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 3.64 points, or 0.3 percent, at 1412.45, following Friday's one-percent gain. The index gained 2.2 percent in the past three sessions as investors position ahead of this week's anticipated passage of a power sector reform measures in Congress.

"The market's now on a wait-and-see, with all the news, both good and bad already out," said A&A Securities research head Astro del Castillo.

Traders said power-related stocks, like Meralco "B" and Aboitiz Equity Ventures, may have succumbed to profit-taking yesterday, as investors sold on news the Senate may ratify the much-awaited power bill soon. If the bill is signed into law within the week, investors will view it as a testament to the government's determination to implement much-needed economic reforms, traders said.

The market was largely neutral to the unresolved Abu Sayyaf hostage crisis, which has already resulted in the death of two of 20 hostages taken from an upscale resort in Palawan.

The crisis, though, has kept investors sidelined, said Diversified Securities president Jose Ricardo Garcia.

"The hostage crisis is getting to be a problem and it will definitely weigh on the market if it drags on," said Garcia. "But at least the situation is far from the capital and the government is doing something about it."

Garcia said the market is expected to continue moving sideways in the next session, though this time, it may move into positive territory. *AP*

UOB unit transfers branches

UNITED Overseas Bank Philippines, the local subsidiary of Singapore-based UOB, will transfer 11 branches to Asia United Bank and Union Bank of the Philippines.

In a letter to clients last May 18, UOBP executive vice president Isabelita Papa said the turnover of six branches to Asia United and five branches to Union Bank should be completed within the next three months.

UOB Philippines has recently received the approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for the transfer of its branches to the two other banks.

The branches to be transferred to AUB are Edsa Greenhills, Lucena, Mandaue, Navotas, Pasig and Shaw, while Unionbank will get the branches in Laoag, Lipa, Santiago, Tuguegarao and Vigan.

Papa pointed out that last year the bank was able to trim its branch network to a total of 86. "While we will have fewer branches, these will be better equipped and well-supported in terms of technology and other resources so that we can serve you, our customers, more effectively," Papa said.

The UOBP executive stressed that the bank remained a majority-owned foreign bank with the most number of branches in the Philippines.

SEC OKs bourse demutualization

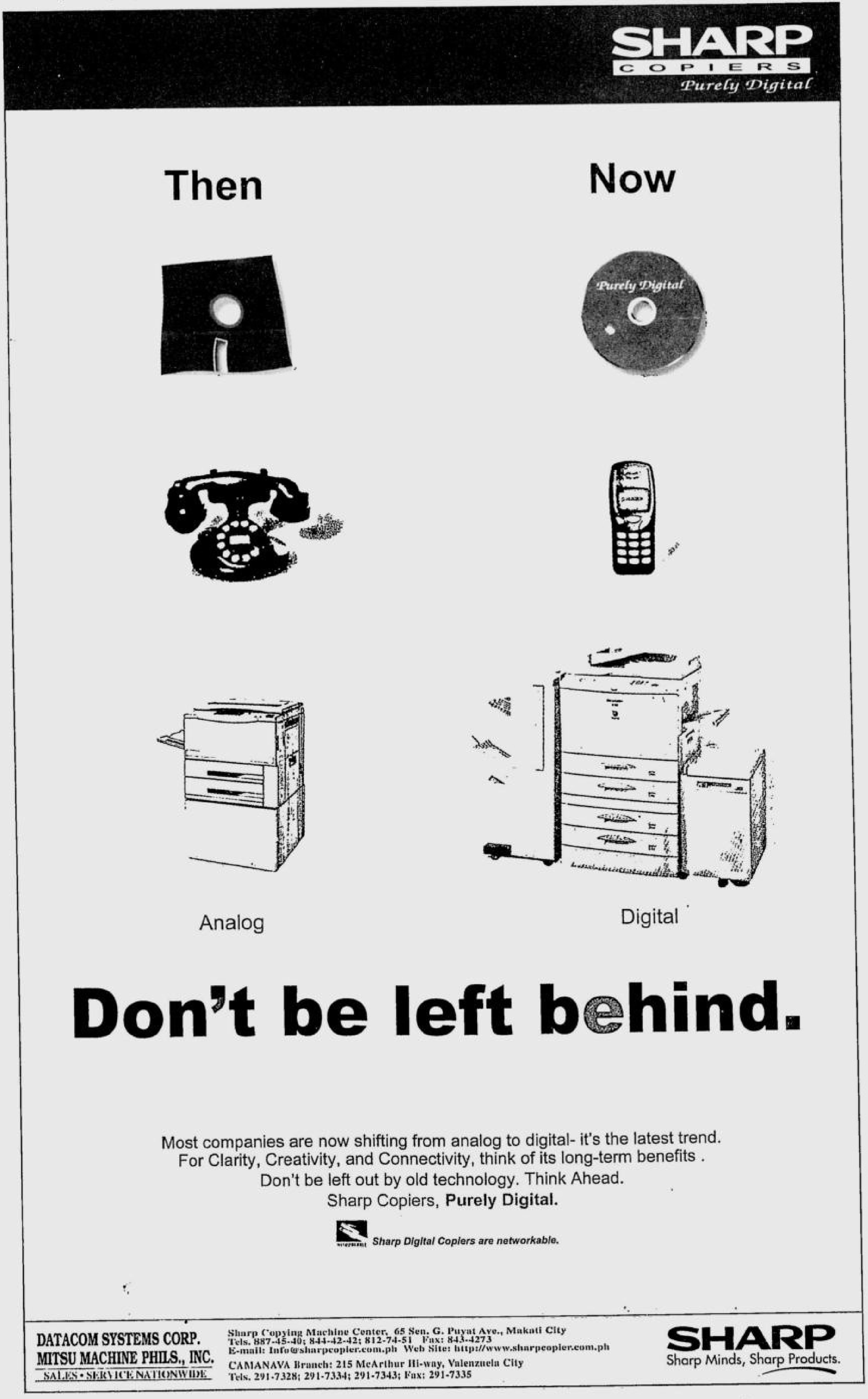
THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has approved in principle the Philippine Stock Exchange's proposed demutualization outline featuring the creation of a new company that would hold the real estate assets of the exchange.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the Commission en banc has also allowed the PSE to submit details of the demutualization plan to the regulatory agency by June 15, two days following the scheduled special membership meeting of the exchange wherein its members are expected to approve the plan.

The SEC has essentially allowed the exchange to convert from a non-stock corporation to a stock corporation. The value of the shares to be issued to PSE members will be based on the value of the exchange's assets, including the real estate holdings of the exchange at historical cost.

In line with its demutualization plan, the PSE will incorporate a new company that will own the exchange's real properties consisting of the Tektite and Ayala Tower trading floors.

The SEC has also approved the PSE's plan to issue trading rights to each of the 184 members of the exchange that will be apart from the shares of stock of the exchange. The trading rights will allow the holders to trade at the exchange.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Gov't considers subsidy to reduce telecom cost

BY GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission is currently weighing whether the government should subsidize or open up the market to more telecommunication players in order to lower the cost of broadband services in the country.

This was revealed by Trade Secretary Manuel "Mar" Roxas II who warned that the high cost of telecommunication in the country has been jeopardizing the development of the information and communication technology sector.

Broadband services give consumers a high-speed, high-capacity pipeline to transmit voice, data and video on the Internet. The current providers of broadband services are Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Globe Telecom Inc., Meridian Telekoms, Bell Telecommunication and Multimedia Telephony's Broadband Philippines.

Roxas admitted that telecommunication services, specifically broadband, were prohibitively priced in the Philippines and only top local and foreign corporations could afford these services.

He traced the costly telecommunication services to the liberalization strategy adopted by the government for this sector in 1994. Under this strategy, telecommunication providers were allowed to operate in major cities in the country (the country was divided into 11 major service areas) with a firm commitment to roll out a specified number of lines in less developed areas in the country.

Roxas said this strategy has forced telecommunication providers to charge high margins on premium services in the urban areas to subsidize their massive capital investments in the provinces.

"These companies have to earn back the money they invested. We are currently looking at alternative ways for them to boost their investment returns to enable them to make broadband services more affordable," Roxas said.

Roxas said the NTC was looking at a proposal of telecommunication providers for the government to subsidize the cost of broadband services to make them cheaper and accessible to small and medium enterprises.

Another option that the NTC was considering was to open up the service areas to new players, a scenario which Roxas admitted could lead to lawsuits from existing contractors who have poured in good money to put up telephone lines just to get an exclusive contract in service areas.

Lopez group seeks gov't guarantee on $370-M loan

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE LOPEZ-CONTROLLED Manila North Tollways Corp. is seeking a performance undertaking from the Department of Finance to guarantee a $370-million loan earmarked for the rehabilitation of the North Luzon Expressway.

The performance undertaking forms part of the requirements imposed by the creditor banks on MNTC.

MNTC is 60-percent owned by First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp., 20 percent by state-owned Philippine National Construction Corp., and 10 percent by French Egis Projects.

The DOF, for its part, has been carefully studying whether the risk guarantee was necessary and to what extent. The problem of the DOF, said a ranking official, was that another government agency, the Tollways Regulatory Board, has already approved the guarantee in behalf of the government.

"When we read the contract, the wordings of the guarantee were very general which means the government may end up shouldering all risks, including those it has absolutely no control of," said the finance official.

Manila North Tollways president and chief executive officer Jose de Jesus is set to meet with finance officials in the next two weeks.

The negotiations for a risk undertaking could become sticky, said the finance official, even with the presence of state-owned PNCC in the Manila North Tollways consortium.

"Its request came at a time when the government is planning to get tough on application for government guarantees on both public and private undertakings," said the finance official.

The DOF is preparing an Executive Order for Malacañang's approval directing government and private entities seeking government guarantee to secure the department's approval.

CebuPac gets permit to fly overseas

BY ABIGAIL HO

AFTER four years of waiting, the Civil Aeronautics Board has finally granted Cebu Pacific Air last Friday a temporary operating permit to fly international scheduled flights and a certificate of authority to operate charters.

Cebu Pacific Air president and CEO Lance Gokongwei, however, said this was not the end of the long wait.

"The CAB permit is just the first step. We still have to wait for the necessary approvals from the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the Office of the President," he said.

Gokongwei thinks it will take another month to complete all the needed paperwork.

Cebu Pacific vice president for corporate planning and external affairs Peggy Vera said there were four steps in acquiring a final permit to fly international scheduled flights: the CAB has to approve the destinations, submit these to the President for approval, get an endorsement from the President, and get the DFA to give the President's endorsement to the countries that the airline wishes to fly to.

"For Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Guam, we already got the President's approval and we just have to wait for this to be transmitted to these countries," she said.

The flight to the United States, she said, had been previously approved by the CAB but it had yet to submit to the President its approval.

For Japan, Australia, China, Korea, Taiwan and Hong Kong, Cebu Pacific is still awaiting the CAB approval.

"We will be flying (international scheduled flights) within, at most, six months. We will be announcing our routes as soon as all the approvals are in order," he added.

But Cebu Pacific is not blaming the CAB for the delay. Vera said they understood that there were a lot of factors that contributed to the delay, like the Asian financial crisis in 1997, the year they filed their request for a permit.

"We are very grateful and happy that this has finally been approved, and we will do our part to ensure that the rest of the steps are done," she said.

JG Summit top honcho John Gokongwei Jr. said it would take $100 million to finance Cebu Pacific's going international

"Funding for this will come from our parent company," the younger Gokongwei said.

His father backed this up and said, "we have the money."

As of the moment, the younger Gokongwei said the company had a plan to bring local or foreign partners into the scene.

Philippine Airlines, right now, has a monopoly of international flights. He said that he still had no projections as to how much of the market Cebu Pacific would be able to corner.

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2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB 'B'		2.200.000
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	820 000	
4	CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	150 000	100 000
5	CAMP JOHN HAY	400 000	350 000
6	CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	950 000	850 000
7	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	150 000	130 000
8	CELEBRITY CLUB	210 000	200 000
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	450 000	400.000
10	CLUB FILIPINO	300 000	
11	EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB 'A'	250 000	220 000
12	EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB 'A'	450.000	400 000
13	EVERCREST GOLF CLUB 'A'		100 000
14	FAIRWAYS & BLUEWATER	Pls Call	Pls Call
15	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	250 000	230 000
16	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'B'	550 000	
17	FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'C'	600 000	
18	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB 'A'	400 000	
19	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB 'B'	450 300	
20	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)	15.500 000	
21	MANILA POLO CLUB	4 000 000	3.500 000
22	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB 'A'	850 000	
23	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB 'B'	1.000 000	950.000
24	MANILA YACHT CLUB	650 000	
25	METROPOLITAN CLUB 'A'	180 000	160.000
26	METROPOLITAN CLUB 'B'	200 000	
27	MT MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	400 000	
28	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	Pls Call	280.000
29	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'B'	Pls Call	
30	ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'C'	Pls Call	600.000
31	PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB 'B'	200 000	
32	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	240 000	
33	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'A'	250 000	
34	RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB 'C'	600 000	500 000
35	ROYAL NORTHWOODS	Pls Call	Pls Call
36	STA ELENA GOLF CLUB 'A'	2 100 000	
37	SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND)	500 000	
38	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L. GOLF CLUB	1,100 000	
39	TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	900 000	
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CANYON WOODS	-	Pls Call
CAPITOL HILLS	120 000	130 000
CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB	210 000	215.000
CLUB FILIPINO	300 000	330 000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	425,000	450,000*/700 000**
EASTRIDGE A	-	200 000
EVERCREST A/B*	130 000*	150.000/170.000*
FONTANA D/C*/B**	88,000/120,000*	90.000/150 000*/280 000**
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	-	250,000/350,000*/450 000**
LUISITA GOLF CLUB	-	550 000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	400.000/450 000*	405.000/455 000*
MT MALARAYAT A/C* (w/lot)**	395 000	400,000/650,000*/2.0 M**
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,600,000	4 000 000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	-	850 000/975 000*
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160 000	175.000/180 000*
MIMOSA IND./CORP.*	200 000/350 000*	240.000/550 000*
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	280,000/500,000**	300,000/425 000*
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	85.000	90 000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	150 000	Pls call*
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	225 000	230 000
RIVIERA A/B*	250 000	280,000/400 000*
ROCKWELL CLUB	600 000	650 000
ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100 000	120.000/150 000*
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250.000	275,000/350.000*/450.000**
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP.*	300,000/400 000*	PLS. CALL
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350 000/550.000*
TAGAYTAY H-LANDS CC/GOLF*	-	450.000/1.0 M*
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	-	850.000
VALLE VERDE IND.	175,000	-
WACK WACK	-	9.45 M all in

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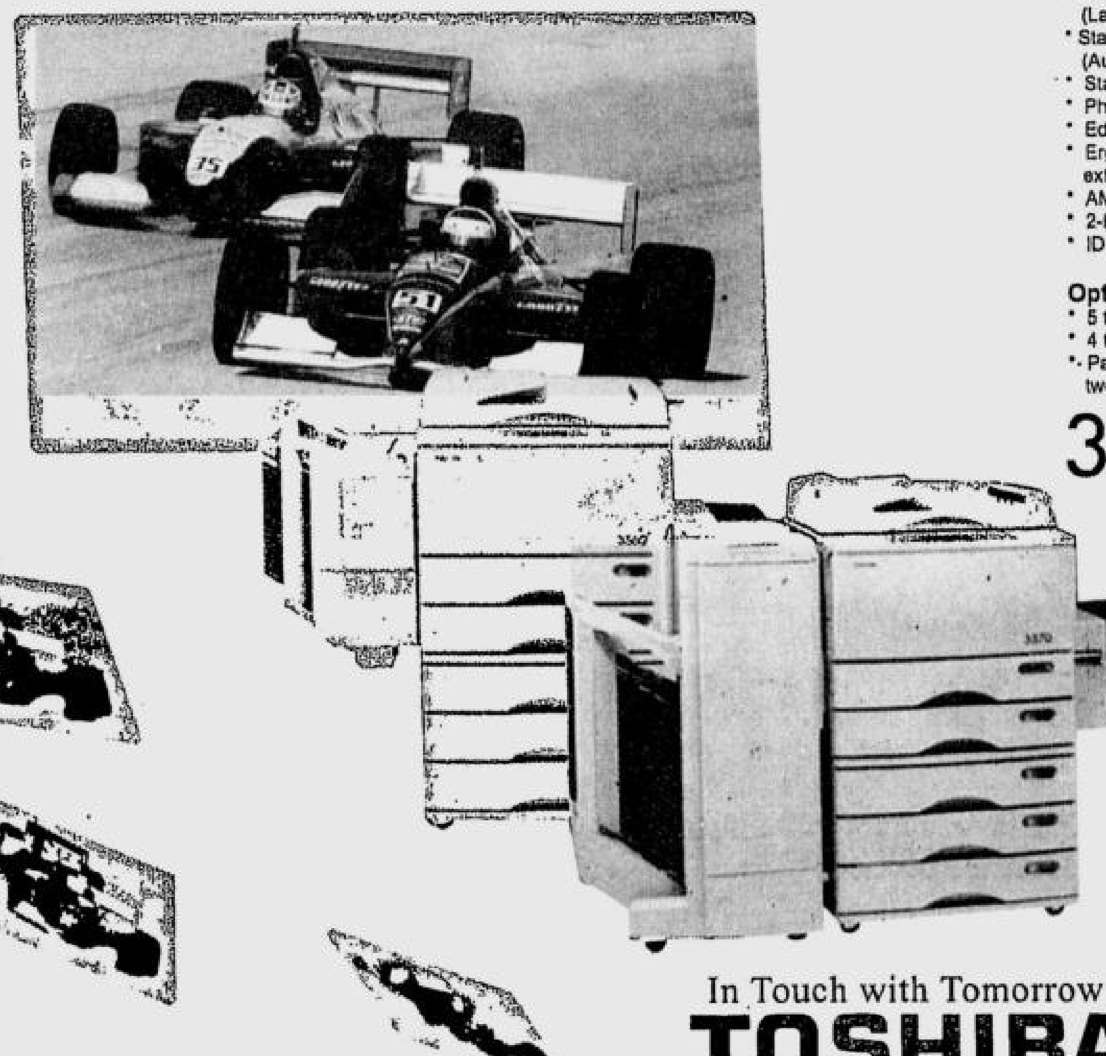

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SBMA to put up own power plant

By Ronnel W. Domingo

SUBIC Bay Freeport will soon generate its own power as Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and Danish company Bay Power Inc. firmed up an agreement to build a 65-megawatt power plant.

SBMA Chair Felicito C. Payumo said Friday the $80-million diesel generator would supply power exclusively to the freeport.

"This will be an added impetus for investors (to come to Subic) because they will be assured of a reliable supply of power in the long run," Payumo told members of the Economic Journalists Association of the Philippines.

Electricity from the new power plant, which is expected to start operations by next year, will be the freeport's main supply while that from the National Power Corp. will serve as a back-up. The freeport's current power requirement was placed at about 30 mw.

There are two power plants in the freeport such as the 108-mw generator commissioned in 1994 and the 12-mw plant left by the Americans who occupied the former naval base.

However, the existing plant's operator, Enron Subic Power Corp., has a power purchase agreement with Napocor. This means the freeport still has to rely on power coming from Napocor's transmission lines.

Payumo expressed hopes that new locators would take up the excess capacity, saying an alliance between SBMA and Clark Development Corp. would raise the freeport's attractiveness to investors.

He explained that the planned alliance aimed to develop a corridor that would link Subic's natural deep harbor and port facilities with Clark's vast flatlands and its bigger airport.

Also, the SBMA chair said the freeport's distribution lines would be upgraded using a $35-million loan from the World Bank.

"Our present distribution lines are hand-me-downs from the Americans, they are no longer reliable," Payumo said.

He said brownouts plagued the freeport whenever there were storms or even mere heavy downpours.

Payumo said the freeport's distribution lines were slated for privatization.

"We expect that by next year, our power distribution system will be run by a private company," Payumo told the INQUIRER.

He also said that the SBMA was planning to sell Bay Power's excess power supply to Napocor.

LACK OF INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Treasury bill rates down

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BENCHMARK 91-day treasury bill rate dropped to its lowest level in nine months while longer tenor bills fell by as much as 51.5 basis points yesterday as the market placed available funds in government securities in the absence of better investment options.

The rate of the six-month instrument slid to single-digit levels while the one-year tenor posted the biggest decline in yesterday's auction of 51.5 basis points to 10.792 percent.

The yield of the 91-day T-bill declined by 12.4 basis points to 8.913 percent while that of the 182-day paper slid by 24.8 points to 9.839 percent.

Outgoing National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the longer-term instruments had just started reflecting the last cut in the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' key overnight rates.

The weak first quarter economic growth confirmed the market's belief that government securities are their only investment option right now.

"With the poor first-quarter growth, the market realized that there was no other outlet for their funds, so it became more aggressive in buying government securities," said Edeza, who is scheduled to end his brief stint as National Treasurer on July 31.

He said that the BSP's pronouncement that it was willing to further cut its rates helped in ensuring lower T-bill yields.

The BSP earlier said it might further reduce its key rates if inflation would fall below 6 percent and if the US Fed would further cut its rates.

Treasury bill rates track the movement of the central bank's overnight rates while the 91-day benchmark is used by banks in setting their lending rates.

The government borrows P4 billion from the private sector weekly through the auction of treasury bills.

Without a viable alternative for a market awash with cash, lending to the government seemed the most logical option at this point in time, he added.

"The market is probably not lending aggressively to the private sector because of the weak economic growth," said Edeza.

The Bureau of Treasury will re-issue through over-the-counter transaction P3 billion worth each of two- and three-year treasury bonds. Edeza expects the yields of both instruments to correct by 10 to 15 basis points.

Edeza noted that the private placement from Credit Suisse First Boston, which was originally set at $150 million, might be increased to $200 million.

The money was scheduled for release on June 18 and this should help shore up the country's dollar reserves temporarily.

Edeza said the three-year loan would remain priced at 3.15 percentage points over six-month London Interbank Offered Rate. A similar $100-million loan is still being negotiated with JP Morgan Chase.

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Bridge, Home in info tie-up

BRIDGE Information systems and Home Cable Inc. have launched Channel 34, a new channel dedicated to providing financial news and data using Bridge's intelligent display solution, BridgeCycler.

BridgeCycler, with installations in strategic media sites, commercial buildings, international hotels and financial institutions around Asia, delivers superior graphical Web-based slide presentation of live financial data, news, charts and weather forecasts. It is backed by Bridge's digital feed architecture, a powerful solution that allows financial data, charts and news from Bridge to be included in the slide presentations.

Home Cable provides state-of-the-art television infrastructure and network, using the latest fiber optic technology to provide superior television programming and high-speed Internet access.

The alliance between Bridge and Home Cable established a dedicated news channel focusing on local markets, including data from the Philippine Stock Exchange, a local index summary, global indices, foreign currency exchange rates, charts, and Asian and global financial and capital market news.

"We are very happy that Bridge and Home Cable have come together for this symbolic partnership," Hans Banzhaf, senior vice president of Home Cable, said.

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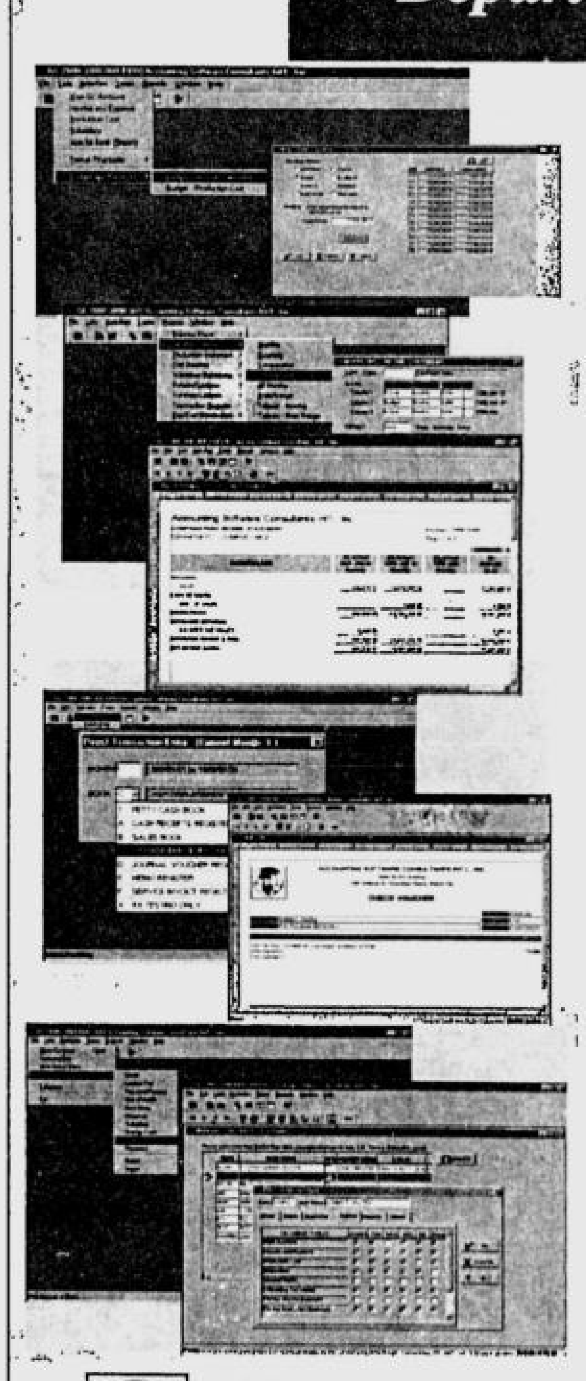

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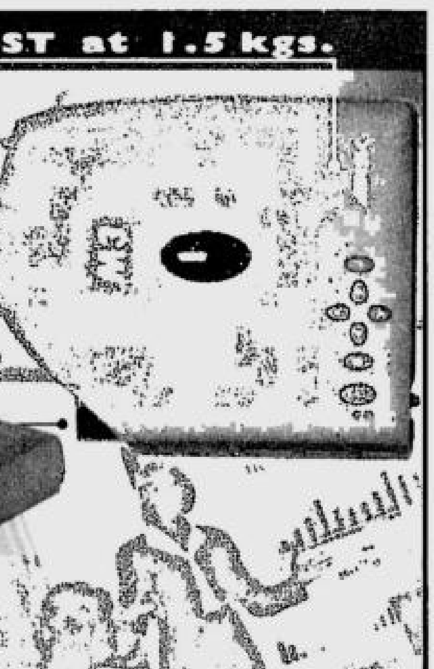

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Music decides to shut down high-flying dotcom company

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE DIE is cast. Semiconductor firm Music Corp. has decided to shut down its cash-starved Internet unit, Music.com, and liquidate its assets.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Music corporate secretary Jimmy Soo said the company approved fresh contingent financing but only to keep Music's New York-based subsidiary out of bankruptcy for the next three months.

Soo said the 90-day period would only be used to terminate all of Music.com's operations and pursue the sale of its assets.

During the period, he said Music.com's creditors would be serviced with a combination of cash and a variable component from the proceeds of an asset sale.

Music wants to liquidate the assets of Music.com without having to go through the US bankruptcy court, where the process of liquidation will be more costly for its shareholders.

Shareholders believe that if an external liquidator is hired, the amount of assets that can be recovered will even be reduced by 25 percent.

"To implement the plan, Music.com will terminate the employment of all remaining employees, staff and management. Philippe Bellosguardo (president) and John Gangler (VP for finance) will be asked to stay on as consultants for the purpose of selling the assets for the highest possible price, managing its creditors and winding down Music.com," Soo said.

For its part, Music agreed to underwrite $300,000 in bridge financing needed for the 90-day liquidation period.

Music owns a 19-percent direct stake in Music.com. Its shareholders, however, through a special purpose vehicle, control 52 percent of the company.

"Considering that some Music.com shareholders and Music Corp. shareholders (as of July 1999) have already indicated an intent to contribute to such financing, Music Corp. anticipates that the actual funding it will provide will be less than the full amount required," Soo said.

"Throughout the same period, a contractor will maintain the site for a share of any revenue generated, but without any further cash out for Music.com. This is expected to preserve Music.com's online presence and to a reasonable extent, its traffic," Soo said.

Music announced on Friday that it had adequate provisions for Music.com's closure.

The company, whose core business was in semiconductors and telecommunications, said it would face no material changes in its income statement or balance sheet this year.

The slump in the Internet sector pushed Music.com to the brink of bankruptcy. It had already laid off 70 percent of its employees and closed its Nashville and Los Angeles offices.

The impending closure came amid Music.com's aggressive global expansion during the last few months. It acquired two French websites to pave the way for its entry to the European market and also acquired Singapore-based Xudio.com to gain a foothold in the Asian market. It also entered into a joint venture deal with US-based Millor Entertainment Group on a magazine publication business and entered into a strategic partnership with Catcha.com, a Southeast Asian online portal and directory.

PDIC decision on Urban Bank out in 2 days

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE PHILIPPINE Deposit Insurance Corp. is set to submit to the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas either today or tomorrow its recommendation on whether Urban Bank Inc. should be rehabilitated in line with a proposal submitted by the Export & Industry Bank.

PDIC executive vice president Ricardo Tan said should the central bank approve ExportBank's proposal, PDIC would release P430 million in loans for Urban Bank's rehabilitation. It would also provide a P1.5-billion standby facility at market rates to help ExportBank cover unanticipated withdrawals by Urban Bank's depositors, he said.

Under the proposal sent to PDIC by ExportBank and the National Association of Urban Bank and UII Depositors and Creditors, or Naud, Urban Bank and its investment house, Urbancorp Investments Inc., would be integrated as a commercial bank and capitalized at P3.5 billion. It would then be merged with ExportBank within the year.

ExportBank would infuse P300 million in initial capital into the new bank. After full provisioning for non-performing loans, Urban Bank's capital base, inclusive of all the capital infusions and conversions into equity, should reach P3.7 billion.

ExportBank is hoping to merge with Urban Bank in six months, with Urban Bank—since it is the one listed on the stock exchange—as the surviving entity. The bank that will come out of this merger will be renamed the Export & Industry Bank and will have a capital base of at least P6 billion.

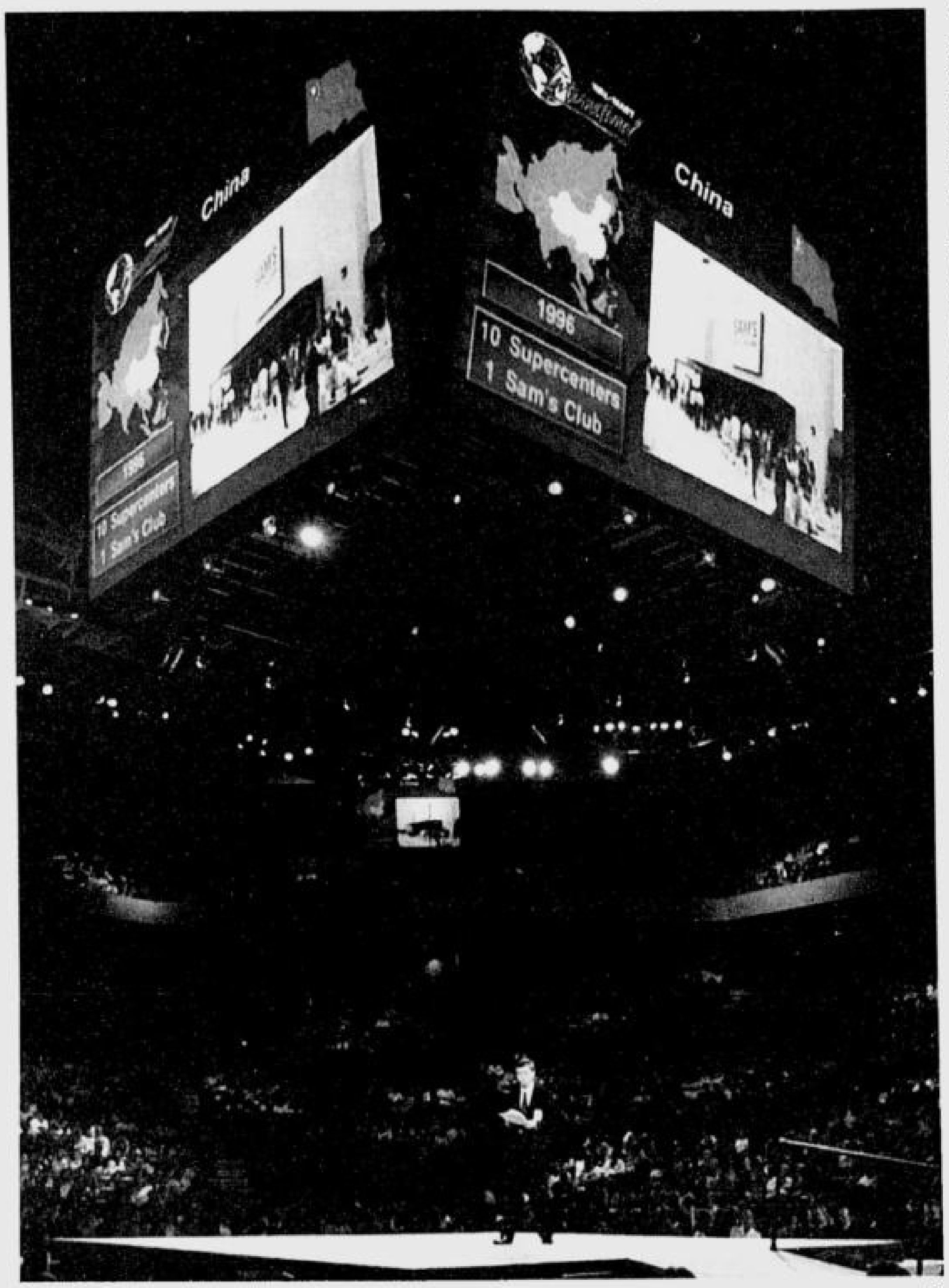
PDIC's Tan said there were still a few major issues that PDIC was threshing out with ExportBank and Naud, but stressed that none of the remaining issues were deal-breakers.

"We want to see our commitment corresponds to a financial soundness that will be sustained," Tan said.

He said some of the parameters of the financial model presented by ExportBank and Naud were unclear.

Urban Bank's and Urbancorp's three largest depositors—San Miguel Corp., Petron Corp. and Manila Electric Co.—agreed to restructure over P3 billion in combined deposits and placements into long-term loans. Three-quarters of the amount to be restructured would be spread over three years while the remaining 25 percent would be stretched over six years.

The Social Security System has also committed to get approvals to extend a P600-million loan to ExportBank.



AP

BREAKING INTO CHINA

Wal-Mart International Division president and chief executive John Menzer talks about Wal-Mart's inroads into China during the annual Wal-Mart stockholder's meeting at Bud Walton Arena at the University of Arkansas campus in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Wal-Mart has stores in eight foreign countries.

Gov't tightens rules on LPG industry

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE ENERGY and local government departments have signed a memorandum of agreement to tighten rules regulating the liquefied petroleum gas industry.

Outgoing Energy Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in a memorandum to Interior and Local Government Secretary Jose Lina Jr. he hoped the two departments' cooperation would "significantly reduce, if not eradicate, all forms of illegal and unscrupulous activities in the LPG industry."

Before this agreement, a task force that included representatives from the energy and justice departments and LPG manufacturers took on consumer complaints.

An energy official said most violations, which included underfilling, unauthorized use of cylinders and the use of unmarked and substandard cylinders, were committed by refillers and retailers.

In an earlier interview, Camacho said the task force received about 500 complaints, 327 of which had been resolved.

He said the task force had imposed about P4 million in fines, but only a small fraction of this had been collected.

"(The MOA) will allow the task force to be more effective in the enforcement of its findings," he said.

He explained, for instance, that the task force could not close down a malpracticing store, but the local government could since it could revoke business permits.

The Revised Schedule of Penalties in the LPG Industry provides that the heaviest penalty is the "recommendation to the proper local government unit for the business closure of the erring establishment."

Camacho also said energy officials were studying the option to disclose to the public details of these cases.

"We would not do this to destroy reputations, but to ensure that violators would feel the need to check their malpractices," he said.

He also said the government was hoping to bring down to one month the average of two months that the task force took to decide on a complaint.

"We are also looking at augmenting the resources available, particularly on the legal side, for the resolution of these cases," he said.

He also called on consumers to be more vigilant in and discriminating with the products and services that they were paying for.

FREE TRADE

Work starts on Asean-China area

SINGAPORE—A study has begun looking into the possibility of establishing a mega Asean-China free trade zone, covering 1.7 billion people, according to Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong.

Similar investigations were also under way with Japan and South Korea, which join China under an "Asean+3" umbrella.

"If East Asia gets its politics right, it will regain its former dynamism," Goh told high-powered central bankers at a dinner Sunday night, opening the 2001 International Monetary Conference.

"A study is under way on the feasibility of an Asean-China free trade area. Also under study is how East Asia could gradually evolve into an East Asia community," he said.

China was seen as offering both challenges and opportunities for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations as they competed for trade and investment dollars.

"In the short to medium term, investments may be diverted from Southeast Asia to China, but in the longer term, Southeast Asia will benefit from greater economic exchanges with China," Goh said.

"Southeast Asia will thrive alongside a prosperous China," he told delegates, including European Central Bank President Wim Duisenberg and the Bank of England's Sir Edward George.

US Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan addressed the conference by video link from the United States.

The likelihood of a China-Asean free trade zone was first raised last November by Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji during the Asean+3 summit in Singapore.

It would cover a market area of 1.7 billion people, comprising China's 1.2-billion population and the 500 million inhabitants of Asean's 10 member countries.

"It might be advisable in the long run for China and Asean countries to explore the establishment of a free trade relationship between them," Zhu said.

"With China's membership in the WTO (World Trade Organization) in sight and the Asean free trade area by-and-large established in 2002, there is a good opportunity for us to enhance our cooperation."

Asean, which groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, was described by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies as having seriously diminished international relevance.

But closer economic cooperation with its plus-three partners would inject new dynamism into the region. *AFP*

Japan, RP agree on IT standards

THE PHILIPPINES, through the Information Technology Foundation of the Philippines, has formed a partnership with the Japanese government for the Japanese Information Technology Standard Examination of the Philippines, a certification program for Filipino IT students and professionals.

"The fact that JITSE-Phil is being administered in the Philippines is a clear indication that the Japanese government recognizes the remarkable aptitude and global competitiveness of Filipino IT professionals," ITFP president Maricor Akol said.

Assistant Trade Secretary Toby Monsod said Filipino knowledge workers were ranked No. 1 in the world. *Abigail L. Ho*

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, June 4, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.1	5.1	4.8	4.8	30,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	75.5	76	75	76	108,900
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	40.5	41	40.5	40.5	15,500
First E-Bank Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	12,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	215	220	212	220	397,480
Philippine National Bank	51.5	53	51.5	53	24,200
Security Bank Corp.	21.25	21.25	20.5	21	16,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	27	26	27	47,700
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.42	1.42	4,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1310	1325	1310	1325	2,290
Pci Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	12,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1090	1115	1090	1115	14,460
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	38.5	38.5	38	38	14,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	420,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2	2	2	2	10,000
Piltel	0.65	0.65	0.6	0.6	380,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	660	660	640	640	3,140,470
Ivantage Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	190,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.041	0.041	0.04	0.04	41,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	41	41.5	41	41	37,800
Manila Electric Co. B	60	60.5	58.5	58.5	602,100
Petron Corp.	2.04	2.08	2	2.04	14,465,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	60,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.34	2.55	2.34	2.55	13,414,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.37	0.44	0.37	0.44	580,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Alsons Cement Corp.	0.17	0.17	0.155	0.155	580,000
Union Cement Corp.	1.16	1.18	1.16	1.16	78,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	18,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.95	4.2	3.9	4.05	2,656,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	13	13	66,700
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	27.5	28	27.5	28	61,100
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.16	1.04	1.14	785,000
San Miguel Corp. A	41.5	41.5	41.5	41.5	78,200
San Miguel Corp. B	46.5	47	46.5	46.5	356,900
Universal Robina Corp.	4.55	5	4.55	5	35,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.7	0.7	0.68	0.68	40,000
Ayala Corp.	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.4	142,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.62	1.66	1.58	1.62	1,177,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	10.5	11	7,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	10,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.5	0.52	0.5	0.51	25,150,000
APC Group Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	310,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	10,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	100,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	40,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	12.25	10	12.25	500
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.46	1.48	2,553,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	1,840,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.08	226,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	24.25	24.25	24	24	238,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	3,200,000
Ionics Inc.	11.75	12.25	11.75	12.25	4,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2	2	2	2	40,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	1,900,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.76	0.76	0.74	0.76	100,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	360,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.47	0.47	1,320,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	80,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.31	0.28	0.29	4,620,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	10,000
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	10,000
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	100,000
Music Corp.	2.1	2.32	2.1	2.22	1,615,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.9	0.9	0.89	0.9	220,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	130,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.48	0.49	0.48	0.49	40,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.5	0.47	0.5	1,440,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.45	0.45	30,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	57,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	37.5	38	37.5	37.5	158,200
Cosmos Bottling Corp.-Pref	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	9,000
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10	10	10	10	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	12,000
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.032	0.032	0.03	0.031	4,900,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	4.95	4.95	4.85	4.85	7,467,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.35	0.33	0.35	5,560,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.29	1,540,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	5,400,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1	1	1	1	1,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.12	2.16	2.1	2.12	4,417,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	3,522,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	1,400,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	1	1	1	1	20,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2	2	2	2	1,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	13,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	2,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	20,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	20,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	20,000

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Comm'l & Ind'l	142,176,770	2,203,102,355.00
PRO	29,307,000	72,748,530.00
Mining	22,541,000	591,100.00
OIL	24,020,000	100,600.00
GRAND TOTALS:	218,730,100	2,394,473,170.00

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	614.64	UP 8.42
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,955.94	DOWN 7.61
PRO	523.85	DOWN 3.34
Mining	1,091.00	UP 1.09
OIL	1.43	DOWN 0.02
All Shares Index	765.84	UP 9.07
Composite	1,412.45	DOWN 3.64

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April exports down 15.8%; prospects remain bleak

(From page B1)

priming is not an option now. We have been doing that since the Asian crisis and that has aggravated our fiscal position. The government can only focus on stability at this point rather than growth, by managing the budget deficit, strengthening the financial system and containing the non-performing loans and other structural reforms."

Abacus Securities economist Romulo Neri Jr. said that it was important for the Philippines to focus on improving output from the non-electronic manufacturing sector to perk up growth. He said the more immediate impact of weaker exports would be felt on the exchange rate and the country's BOP, which already stood at a deficit of $1.09 billion as of end-February.

"It was sharper than expected. The consensus was that there would only be zero growth in exports," Neri said.

Worldsec International Securities head of research Eric Claudio said that recent pronouncement from an exporters' group that it could expand capacity would help temper the contraction of the sector this year.

"Unfortunately, there's nothing we can do over the short term. Over the long term, though, we can diversify our products and the market destination," Claudio said.

In 2000, the export sector accounted for 44 percent of the gross domestic product. It accounted for 39 percent in 1999, 40 percent in 1998 and 50 percent in 1997.

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MEDICAL

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

SKIN PEEL & WHITENING WARTS PIMPLES SCARS HAIRLOSS Ex SWEAT VD-STD 15 Annapolis, Greenhills Call 7276124 to 25 9am-7pm

VDSTD CLINIC T8175071 MATRINCO BLDG. 2178 PTAMO MKT 9-2pm DR. GATAN

PERSONAL

CONSTRUCTION/ DESIGN

We Build Houses 4178012

HEALTH/FITNESS

BE SLIM 2443937

MASSAGE

ASK JAMES M/F 24 HRS SERVICES 8521874 100% HDSME

24 HRS CALL RICKY 8513462

7523149 WIND OFF M/F

NICE GUYS LTD. 4387661

VIP-M/F-8312373 09193591771

REFLEXOLOGY

24 HR/Zoren/09173849954

D'Millenium M/F T-9347633

Reflex Call 09196658730

Scorpion Massg 4372542

TUTORIAL LESSONS

LALUZ 5268216/70

HOUSEHOLD

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

- A-1 MAIDS 8330946/47

BEST MAID 7111602/7115039

GOODMAIDS 913-3005

Help Agency 5328376/5321947

Home Maid Specialist Call Tel. 660-4589

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L-BAHAY 9206784 4540520

L-BAHAY 8383742/5447599

LBAHAY 7113540

L-BAHAY 712-16-92

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•LIPAT•731-6833

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMM'L/RESDL

MANILA

RES/COMM'L - 175 SQM S DEL ROSARIO ST TONDO NR ICAM & H LOPEZ BLVD. TEL# 2536591 & 2536598

PROVINCIAL

•SUBIC 9 has.+ good 4 subd 0919-2300217

HOUSE & LOT

Las Pinas/Bacoor 3BRS DP 6mo.8740486/87

LAS PINAS

LAS PINAS/BACOOR 3BRS 2TB DP 6MO 874-0486/87

MAKATI

Magallanes H&L LA367 2Sty 4BR 13M • 643-5313

MANDALUYONG

215sqm near MAKATI & EDSA • Call 531-0046

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

MANDALUYONG

Mand. H&L 2Stry 300m² Call 534-6610 Jojo

MARIKINA

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

1800 SQM HSE&LOT RES/WRHSE/TWNHSE POSADAS VIL SUCAT TEL#2536591 / 2536598

Multi National H&L V/L 180-up • 643-5313

PASIG

B'NEW 2BR2TB Bagong Ilog Pasig 937-4514

Bo Capitolyo 330m² P7M Quiet location • 671-4421

Bo Kapitolyo LA986m² Bung w/Jap Hse-Garden 6435313

Greenwoods Hse & Lot Call 534-6610 Jojo

Lexington Subd Terms/Cash H&L T/hses 4M up 6435313

Parcwood Pasig 753-2532 5br + Mr 0919-5889231 Rush

Pasig Greenpark Bungalow 658-2115 to 16

VV2 H&L LA743 FA351 4BR Garden-Nice • 643-5313

QUEZON CITY

Direct Buyers Only
V. Luna Q.C.
Back SSS LOT 72.2 FA 120 P2.8M 724-6391 RUSH! Sale

Greenmdows 4BR Den 35M Facing West Call 412-1825

Mayon St. SMH-QC A-960m² Lot & Improv. 534-6610 / 818-8569 Jojo

RIZAL

Beverly Hills Subd. Antipolo LA 650m² Hse, Area 500m² P12M 650-3393

Cuesta Verde Exec. Vill. Antipolo LA 120m² P240T Call 650-3393

Fairmont LA1,090sqm FA400 12M Neg 6503393

Ferretville Antipolo Bungalow 3BR • 658-2115 to 16

Gloria Heights Subd. Antipolo LA 218m² Hse-Area 85m² P1.8M Call 650-3393

Milagros Subd 3DR Aprt LA299 Bldg80 sqm 6503393

Mtalban 5200/mo 6495616

RUSH !!!
2Sty Vista Verde 4BR3TB Maids BR/TB 2Cgrg 200LA 281FA PLDT Tel.3.5M Neg cyberlife2000.com/mabuhay /navarro/house.html C9175351847 B141947334

Valley View Exec. Caința ovrlkıng MMla 658-2115/16

Valley View Exec Cainta Thse/Sgle det 658-2115/16

PROVINCIAL

Baguio Mansion Hse 4BR 2Md's Qtr 3TB 658-2115/16

OTHER AREAS

Brand New 7264371

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

Val Kamedo 250m² 9838628

LOT

KALOOCAN

Deparo 500m x 499.2m / P1,200/m² Call 652-0227

MANILA

COMM'L LOT 162 SQM HERBOSA ST NEAR PRITIL MKET 253-6591 / 253-6598

PASIG

Pasig GreenPark 200m² P5T/m² nr Malls 681-2457

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

QUEZON CITY

NR. COMMOMWEALTH P3,800/SQ 300SQ, 5YRS-PAY 242-1521

RIZAL

Antipolo 2564m² @P3T/ m² w/ Factory Rush 6812457

Antipolo City Proper Coml 1756m² v.nice 658-2115/16

Antipolo V/L 5300m² Cheap w/Fruit Trees • 643-5313

BEVERLY HILLS 924-8765

Binangonan Alng N'llonal Hi-way 2,752m² P1,500/m² Call 652-0227

Cardona Sitio Riwata Ovr Looking 15 Hec.-20 Hec. P300/m² Call 652-0227

Mla. East Road Taytay 667m² -1000m² 6582115/16

Morong Sitio Lanang alng N'llonal H-way 6,908m² / P350/m² 652-0227

Tanay Ideal 4 fruit bearing trees 10,012m² / P250/m² Call 652-0227

Tanay Town Prop. 1,927m² / P5,000m² Call 652-0227

Valley View Royale Cainta 150m² 3 Adjng lots 6582115/16

Vista Verde Cainta 150m² 5adj lots lots 658-2115/16

V/L Beverly Hills Subd. 615m² Cheap! • 643-5313

PROVINCIAL

1,370Has @ P60/m² Loc. Mayantoc Sta Ignacia & San Jose Tarlac Frontage 3.84Kms Along d H-way 652-0227 • 942-6181

150Has @ P250/m² Neg. 900M Shoreline 652-0227 • 942-6181

1,700Has @ P200/m² Along D H-way other side along shore-line 652-0227 • 942-6181

Baguio Lot 3369m² Call 0917-3873136

Capas. Tarlac 200Has Expandable to 1,000Has @ P320/m² Frontage 1.8 Kms 652-0227 • 942-6181

Cavite Light Industrial Park Pre-Selling Along Maguyam Rd., Carmona Cavite Tel 635-8108 • 636-0111

Concepcion Tarlac 150Has @ P150/m² 652-0227 • 942-6181

Sta Rosa. 114Has @ P1,500/m² S. Super H-way 53 Has @P1 500/m² Along Barrio Road 652-0227 • 942-6181

SUBIC 96,828m² 4 subd. 047-9134120 Jhun

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

Salcedo Vil 1BR FF + PS P3.5M 911-7940

MANDALUYONG

Pneer Hiland 1-3BR Sale Call 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Various Condo/TownHse Call 5346610/8188569 Jojo

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

PARANAQUE

BF PQ 3BR/TB MDS RM-TB 1car P3.5 911-7940

Nice TH BF Resort Vil Las Pinas 1.6M 911-7940

Town Hse Sherwoods Hts. P3M 534-6610 / 818-8569

PASIG

Pasig Thses 2.5 up Terms 2Sty Nice- • 643-5313 Cash

Rennaisance Condo 4 Rent 1br/2br Res. 643-5313

Rennaisance FOR SALE 1br / 2br Res. 643-5313

Rush! Renaissance 2000 DBO 2br+2tb 09178143792

QUEZON CITY

MO. IGNACIA, SCT AREA 3BR 140m² nr timog 2420922

Century Imperial Timog 2br FF T.Morato Condo BN 1br 0917-8152734 Text or Call 411-0116 Loc. 1101

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO Condo P1.3"EZ"term 9126976 9132224 4381161

Nice TH Graco Vil LA158 FA278M² P9M 911-7940

SALE/RENT 2-3BR TERMS AFFORDABLE T414-0573

MEMORIAL LOT

Loyola Mkn@48T 8386652/45

MMP 2L@45T Spl 8386652/45

AGRICULTURAL LANDS

Antipolo LA2.0Has near Masinag Mrket 658-2115/16

RESORT

BF Resort Vill Las Pinas 276m² @ P5500 874-9075

FACTORY/WHSE

Pasig = Warehouses 4Lease 1200 - 3600 • 643-5313

Warehouse A-1000m² Call 5346610/8188569 Jojo

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

QUEZON CITY

29Manhattan St 8 5T 2br 1tb &12T 2br2tb7214304

7 Units Apt. 4 Rent Nr SM City 4.5T/6T/& 7T Tel. 454-9007/8

HOUSE

ALABANG

3BR Mds Rm 4TB Big Lawn 8265861 / 09189242622

MANDALUYONG

Luxurious New House 5BR w/Private TB & Balcony Penthouse Golf Course View Glo 721-0841 • 724-8874

PARANAQUE

2Stry w/Fence 3BR 1TB 1Grge w/ Water Pump Tank #3838 Mabini St. Don Galo, P'que. (Nr. Coastal Road Quirino Ave.) P11,000/mo. 631-2892; 0919-5653954 or 0917-3575969 Pager 141-639990 Julie

BN HL Multinatl LA480m² FA400m² P15M 911-7940

Duplex LA183m² 3BR P3.8M 911-7940

QUEZON CITY

Horseshoe Vill. New 2Stry 4BR 3T&B 3Car Grge Maid Rm 725-5439 • 724-5513

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

CB RICHARD ELLIS
Managed B. New Res. Units
Essensa East Forbes
Fort Bonifacio, Global City
Luxury 3BR, 290sqm
Classica Tower
Salcedo Village, Makati
123BR 43-157sqm
18-85K UF/FF
Burgundy Westbay Tower
V. Cruz-Taft nr. Lasalle
123BR 14-37K
coml/ofc 42-90sqm
Oxford Suites
P. Burgos St. Makati
Std, 1 and 2 BR furnished
Other properties available:
752-2580, 848-7386,
759-4091, 0917-8381928,
0917-8112635
manila@cbrichardellis.com

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Fully Fur Condo 753-2533 Mkt/Ortigas 0919-5889231

Paragon Stud FF 09178345103

FOR LEASE

1.0 to 4.0 Has along Valley Golf Road • 658-2115 to 16

600m² along Manila East Road • 658-2115 to 16

•Lipa City 500m² to 8000m² Good for factory, w'house, clinics, etc. Good Location
•150m² to 360 m² Good for bank, drugstore, etc.
•Quezon/Batangas boundary 30,000m² P0 50/m² monthly rental CALL 823-0670

BUSINESS RENTAL

Mega Plaza 30.78sqm Call 412-1825 • 0917-7914366

Orient Sq. 150m² @350/m² w/Lights Imprved Call 412-1825

P1,800/mo Stalls Malate 1-400-6420 / 23 Sn Pedro Laguna 808-6006 / 07

Prime Office Avenida Nr. Raon Concrete Bldg. T735-6516

•PRIME TIMOG• Tel No. 912-4224

RESORT

Beach Prop w/ nice Nipa Huts P8.3M 911-7940

PansolHotSpring Prvt 776-7507

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HYUNDAI

98 Grace 280T neg/94 Grace 225T neg w/bullbar 12seaters leather seat cover like brand new 731-3492

98Pregio 340T 731-3492

99 H100 340T 731-3492

KIA

'98 BESTA P268T 7313492

MERCEDES

MB 100 637-7396

98 MB100D 395T 731-3492

TOYOTA

Toyota 96 Mdl XL Red Mileage 66Tkm P220 Call 534-6610

HEAVY EQUIPMENT/ TRANSPORT

SAKAI TW40 250T/GENSET DCA-150SSN 380T&200KVA 450T&50KVA 280T (All Sound Proof) BULLDOZER D30P 300T 9360814/9373439

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Starex L300 Coaster Bus Cars 631-7396 • 631-3496

9344988 L300 MB&Van

Bnew L300 8254058 8261045

BrdalMB/Vans 9296250/4535288

Van Coaster Bus 440-91-71

Cars/Vans 4 Hire 8203894

FXcheaprates3730584Cathy

HiAce L300 Urvan 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

Sansui Vans & cars 24hrs 9268827 / 4319167

SELF-DRIVE New CARS/VANS-ALL BRANDS ABC 5368822/3039789

STAREX L3 9121809/7268388

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

UDrive Carsvans 8006595

WANTED TO BUY

We Buy Cars Vans P-Ups at High Price • 671-8191

CAR LOAN

2% w/o taking car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

SPORTING GOODS

Billiard Table Marble Top Accept C.Card 23T 25T & 30T 781-9453

B.Table B'New/Accessories (02)801-4494/802-0566

Cheap Tables 7311881

Imported Billiard 22T, 35T complete acc's. 8618714 to 16 8613123 8613125

STRIKEMASTER Bowling & Billiards Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

B/SELL FUL PD EDUC PLAN 7137284•09177939632

BUYING ROLEX others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair **ROLEX** Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

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WE BUY GOLD CALL:8390002 8390004 0917375162/0917360324

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Exp. Taxi Driver 635-3503

FEMALE

• 1Cook 1Yaya 726-1266 •

FEMALE EXEC SECRETARY W/EXP COMMERCE OR ACCT. GRADUATE RES OF CAL VALENZUELA LOOK FOR SHIELA 9840046 4435955

FEMALE Hairdresser Salary, commission + benefits CALL 845 0879

FOREIGNER w/FAMILY Looking for TWO MAIDS For Better-Living Call 824-0603

WTD: Eng. Spk Yaya/H.Maids & Int'l Fam. Cook 660-4589

MALE/FEMALE

28 PERSONNEL For Cubao/Manila Branches Coll. Level/Grad, Any Course, Exp. Not Req., No Age Limit, Income P12,000/month Call Bank Products Division Tel. 727-3243 c/o Ms. Cha'

•OFC Staff 9134470 Aynah

•Offc Staff 9134470 Ludy•

Office Staff 9134470 REY

Secretary Factory Worker Driver Sales Agent 2205-B F.Zobel St.,San Miguel Vill Mkt

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URGENTLY NEEDED

ACCOUNTANT

☑ Male, not more than 35 years old
☑ CPA, with at least 5 years experience

Bring resumé and transcript of records to:

5/F Bloomingdale Building, 205 Salcedo Street
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Look for Mr. Punzalan or Mr. Buatis

THERE ARE AT LEAST THIRTY OPERATING LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, SO, WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT.

❶ We pay 50% of the protection before you die and other 50% after you die. It's called Terminal Illness Benefit and YES, it has conditions to qualify.

❷ You can save lots of money by having the interest on your premium pay for the premium.

❸ After a time, you can borrow without interest more than the face amount of your protection and the loan will not be deducted from your protection.

❹ Because we are only NUMBER EIGHT out of 30, we have to be different to change our ranking.

If you can qualify, we always need AGENTS. Fax or email for an interview:

H.G. DOUGLAS McLAREN, C.L.U.
(Former Regional Manager -
Marketing Far East Division, Sun Life of Canada)
Chief Marketing Officer

National Life Insurance Co. of the Philippines
6762 Ayala Avenue, 1200 Makati City
FAX No. (632) 810-0596
Email Address: hgdm6762@cnl.net

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP, INC. 1137 P. Gil St. Paco, Mla

Will sell all expired pledges left during the months of October and November 2000 on JUNE 17, 2001, Sunday at 10:00 am.
Sons of J. Lanuza Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Disposable Lighters P2.00 /pc Volume Orders Call 813-5638 Terry Office hrs.

EARN FR HOME 8531008/5252230

LIVELIHOOD ARCADE &Food Court opens June 13 P 5,250.00/month rental East Avenue across LTO QC 9296286 Cel(0917)8480612

RTW Ideal 4 Tiange 3738821

Supervisor P25T/mo 4185321

Supervisor P25T/mo. 8951381

Work From Home 8937903

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **Jaime T. Dela Torre** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc.#419; Page#83; Book#X; Series of 2001 before Notary Public May Z. Redor of Tayabas, Quezon (PDI-May 22, 27, June 5, 2001)

NOTICE OF LOSS

CASH Airway Bill & Prepaid Consignment Note & Official Receipt **ABOITIZ ONE, INC.** w/Series No E0760551C-E0760600C, A0218123-A0218150A, 31103-31150. Transaction entered using above series. Will not be honored by the company.
(PDI-June 5, 2001)

Aim to lead 21st Century as Global Packaging Company

BE GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE
BE PART OF THE PRESTIGIOUS PACKAGING TEAM

KANEPACKAGE PHIL. INC.

QUALITY ASSURANCE MANAGER
QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT MANAGER
QUALITY ASSURANCE SUPERVISOR
QUALITY ASSURANCE ASST. SUPERVISOR

- 25 to 35 years old
- graduate of any 4-year related course
- with at least 3 years related experience
- with experience in ISO
- can stand pressure and aggressive
- with good reporting ability

QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSISTANT

- 19 to 26 years old
- at least college level
- with at least 6 months experiece in the same field
- can stand pressure and aggressive
- with good reporting ability
- can work long hours

Interested applicants may apply personally at Kanepackage located at #5 Ringroad LISP II, Brgy Lamesa, Calamba, Laguna, with tel. nos (049)545-7166-69 and look for Ms. Kathy Opulencia every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, before 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

Billiard (600sq.m) w/Ofc. Inside, compl kitchen equipt food warmer, 14 New Billiard tables, w/karaoke machine. Nr. School w/Reg. custr / oprtl & Fully furn (Add. 30 Colon St.,) Lala (02) 929-3321 • (0917) 8969674

MAKE 3 WISHES
Pray 9 Hail Mary for 9 days Wish 1 business 2 impossible on the 9th day put out this ad and your wishes will come true. Thank you Mama Mary M.R.L.

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

Oh, St Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me. This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED PRIME SAVINGS BANK, INC. (PSBI)

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will conduct its final receiving of claims for insured deposits in the closed Prime Savings Bank, Inc. (PSBI) on July 2, 2001. Relative thereto, depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), where PDIC representatives are stationed, to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries during office hours, Mondays to Fridays.

Duration of Travel	Claims Processing Site	PSBI Office/ Branch	LBP Servicing Branch
I – NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION CLUSTER			
June 6 to July 2, 2001	Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation PDIC Building # 226 Chino Roces Ave. Makati City	Head Office Caloocan EDSA – Pasay El Cano Ermita Makati Cubao Del Monte EDSA – Shaw New Manila Quezon Avenue San Juan Commonwealth Fairview Novaliches Bacoor Las Piñas Sucat Cavite City	EDSA Greenhills Kaloocan Masagana Citimall Intramuros YMCA Manila Pasong Tamo Cubao Roosevelt Shaw Blvd. Broadway West Triangle San Juan Commonwealth Commonwealth Novaliches Pamplona Las Piñas Sucat Cavite
June 6 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Antipolo # 37 P. Burgos St., San Jose, Antipolo, Rizal	Cainta - Brookside Cainta - West Pasig	Cainta Marcos Highway Kapasigan
II – NORTHERN/CENTRAL LUZON CLUSTER			
June 26 to July 2, 2001	# 151- B Mc Arthur Highway, Marulas, Valenzuela	Marilao Valenzuela	Meycauayan, Bulacan Valenzuela
June 26 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Baliuag Barrera Street, Poblacion, Baliuag, Bulacan	Baliuag	Baliuag, Bulacan
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Rumings Building McArthur Highway, Dolores	Angeles Dolores	Angeles City San Fdo., Pampanga
June 26 to July 2, 2001	2/F JLO Building, Arellano St., Camiling, Tarlac	Camiling	Camiling, Tarlac
June 26 to July 2, 2001	M.H. del Pilar St., San Nicolas, Tarlac	Tarlac	Tarlac City
June 21 to July 2, 2001	# 4 Tecson Building Gen. Luna St., Cabanatuan City	Cabanatuan Gapan	Cabanatuan Gapan, Nueva Ecija
June 14 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Sta. Barbara Poblacion Sur, Sta. Barbara Pangasinan	Urdaneta	Urdaneta
June 14 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – Sta. Barbara Poblacion Sur, Sta. Barbara Pangasinan	Calasiao	Dagupan City
June 21 to July 2, 2001	# 100 Victoria Village, 2nd Road Quezon Hills, Baguio City	Baguio	Baguio
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Formerly Maritime School Mabini St., Catbangin, San Fernando, La Union	La Union	San Fdo, La Union
June 26 to July 2, 2001	2/F Melchora Building Corner Acosta & M.H.Del Pilar Sts. Laoag City	Laoag	Laoag
June 19 to July 2, 2001	Blk 9 Lot 7 Rizal Village, Santiago City	Santiago	Santiago
June 19 to July 2, 2001	# 14 B Bassig St., Ugac Norte Tuguegarao	Tuguegarao	Tuguegarao, Cagayan
III – SOUTHERN LUZON CLUSTER			
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Orient Bank – San Pedro Old National Highway, San Pedro, Laguna	Biñan Muntinlupa	Biñan, Laguna Muntinlupa
June 21 to July 2, 2001	Unit 4, Grnd. Floor Rivera Bldg. # 42 Hilltop, Sitio Hilltop, Kumintang, Ibaba, Batangas City	Batangas Lipa	Batangas Lipa
June 26 to July 2, 2001	UNISAVE – Calamba 4/F Unisave Building, Purok 1 Calamba, Laguna	Calamba	Calamba Laguna
June 21 to July 2, 2001	HOSLA – San Pablo P Burgos St. cor Lopez Jaena St San Pablo City	Lucena San Pablo	Lucena San Pablo
June 14 to July 2, 2001	# 468-A Pecson Building Rizal St. Cabangan, Legazpi City	Legazpi Naga	Legazpi Naga
June 7 to July 2, 2001	2/F Formacel Building Burgos St., Sorsogon, Sorsogon	Sorsogon	Sorsogon
IV – VISAYAS CLUSTER			
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Jejena Building IV Lopez Jaena St., Jaro, Iloilo	Iloilo	Jaro, Iloilo
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Countrywide RB of La Carlota corner Lizares and Lacson Sts Bacolod	Bacolod	Bacolod
June 21 to July 2, 2001	A S Fortuna III Building A C Cortez Ave., cor. Plaridel St. Mandaue City	Cebu-Banilad Cebu-Mandaue	Banilad, Ext. Office Mandaue, Ext. Office
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Deonaldo's Residence Orchids St. Daro, Dumaguete City	Dumaguete	Dumaguete
June 26 to July 2, 2001	Grnd Flr. G. Villasis Bldg., Rizal Avenue, Tacloban City	Tacloban	Tacloban
V – MINDANAO CLUSTER			
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Ong Building, Santiago Blvd. General Santos City	General Santos Marbel	General Santos (Pioneer) Koronadal (Roxas)
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Unit 6 Jolelmore Building, Mortola St., Cagayan de Oro	Cagayan de Oro	Capistrano
June 14 to July 2, 2001	Unit 6 Jolelmore Building, Mortola St., Cagayan de Oro	Iligan	Iligan
June 7 to July 2, 2001	3/F Pacific Bank Building R. Magsaysay corner Bangoy Sts Davao City	Davao- Agdao Davao- Magsaysay Davao- Magallanes	Davao (Recto) Davao (Recto) Davao (San Pedro)
June 26 to July 2, 2001	# 562 San Jose Road, Baliwasan Grande Zamboanga City	Zamboanga	Zamboanga (Main)

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

1. Original evidence of deposit (i.e. savings passbook, certificate of time deposits, latest bank statement, unused check)
2. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) with depositor's specimen signature

Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of claims processing

Pursuant to the provisions of R A. 3591 as amended, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Prime Savings Bank, Inc. is on July 2, 2001 After July 2, 2001, PDIC as insurer shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the closed PSBI.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – June 2 & 5, 2001)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 15 June 2001 at 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
LRD-138	Loyola Grand Villas Subd., Barangka, Marikina City	1,320 m² residential lot (TCT No. 204465).	P 7,920,000.00
LTY-50	35 Sto. Niño St., Ma. Corazon Subd., Cupang, Antipolo City	520 m² two (2) parcels industrial/residential lots (TCT Nos.284045 and 284046) with two-storey office/factory buildings and one set cold storage freezer.	P 3,243,000.00
LTY-139	15 Sampaguita St., Tres Hermanas Subd., Mayamot, Antipolo City	330 m² residential lot (TCT No. N-58107) with one-storey building.	P 1,368,000.00
BULACAN			
MED-123	402 Bo. Tangos, Baliwag, Bulacan	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-128269) with building and improvements	P 456,100.00
PAMPANGA			
LDA-122	Sitio Teracan, Macabebe, Pampanga	87,656 m² lot utilized as fishpond (TCT No. 484782-R)	P 2,885,300.00
PANGASINAN			
VCP-90	Pagal District, San Carlos City	11,200 m² four (4) parcels of adjoining industrial lot (TCT Nos. 32082 to 32085) with buildings and improvements.	P 15,857,000.00

CHATTELS (Sale on "as-is, where-is" and per unit basis)

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
VPI-60	EPZA, Rosario, Cavite	1 set Portable Concrete Batching Plant	P 594,000.00
VPI-62	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	16 units of heavy equipment and vehicles	P 8,100.00 to P 623,600.00/unit
VAB (69a-69o)	No. 428 10th Ave., East corner Kampupot St., Grace Park, Caloocan City	19 units of various machineries and equipment for manufacture of plastic wares and industrial items.	P 15,000.00 to P 560,000.00/unit
LJG-139a	La Campana Compound, EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C	1 unit Tractor Head.	P 60,000.00
LJG-139b	La Campana Compound EDSA, Balintawak, Q.C.	1 unit 40-Footer Flat Bed Trailer	P 58,300.00

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V; and
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI – June 5 & 6, 2001)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby informed that **PRS NETWORK GROUP, INC.** has ceased to be connected with FORTUNE GUARANTEE & INSURANCE CORPORATION (FGIC) effective 30 April 2001. Any transaction entered by PRS in behalf of FGIC after this date shall no longer be honored.

FORTUNE GUARANTEE & INSURANCE CORPORATION
4F Citystate Centre, 709 Shaw Boulevard, 1603 Pasig City
Tel. No. 633-9232
Fax Nos. 633-8987, 633-8988

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS
DECS Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Secretary

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) through the Health and Nutrition Center (HNC) is inviting all manufacturers/suppliers of powdered milk and liquid full cream milk for the bidding of 2,145,800 pcs. of powdered milk and 2,083,000 packs of liquid full cream milk for feeding of Grade 1 entrants in the identified nutritionally depressed areas nationwide.

All interested manufacturers/suppliers must submit a Letter of Intent before obtaining bid documents starting June 4 to 15, 2001 at the PBAC Secretariat Office, Rm. 112-A Mabini Bldg., ULTRA Complex, Pasig City.

A pre-bid conference will be held on **June 19, 2001, 10:00 AM** at Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal Bldg. I, ULTRA Complex, Pasig City. The Submission and Opening of Bids will be on **June 26, 2001** at the same time and place mentioned above.

DECS-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive deficiencies embodied therein without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids.

(Sgd.) ERNESTO S. PANGAN
Undersecretary
Chairman, DECS-BAC

(PDI – June 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga
Tel. No. 900-0689, 900-0474
Fax No. (0450 900-00-921

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

PELCO II invites suppliers to apply for pre-qualification and if subsequently found qualified to bid for the **SUPPLY and DELIVERY of**.

Package 005-2001 : Concrete poles,
35' – 7A (50 pcs.)
30' – 7A (50 pcs.)
Package 006-2001 : Conductor duplex:
#2 – 5 reels
#1/0 – 5 reels
Package 007-2001 : Ladders, Hot Sticks, etc.
Package 008-2001 : OFFICE SUPPLIES

The pre-qualification forms may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PELCO II Main office, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga, from June 06, 2001 to June 13, 2001 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00). Pre-qualification forms shall be submitted not later than 5:00 p.m. on June 14, 2001.

Pre-Qualification meeting is scheduled on June 15, 2001 at 10:00 a.m. at Pelco II Main Building, San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

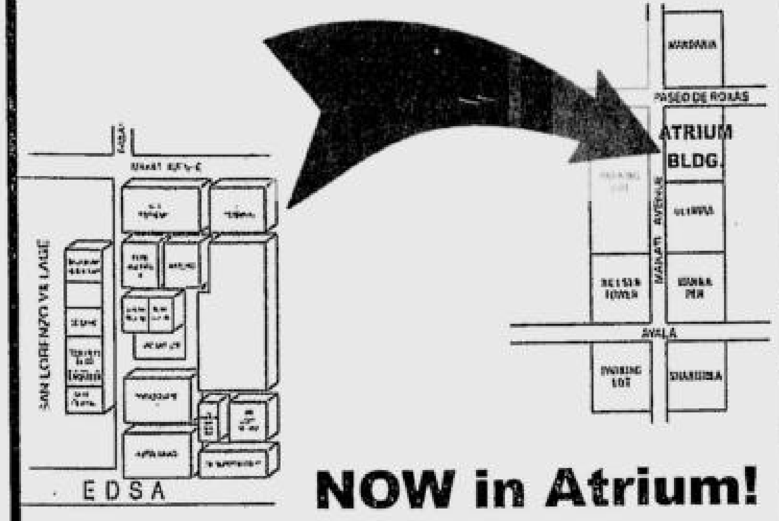
All pre-qualified bidders may obtain the necessary bid documents after paying a non-refundable fee of FIVE HUNDRED PESOS (P500.00) Main office at San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga.

Bidding will be announced later. For additional inquiries, please call the PBAC Secretariat at (045) 900 0474 or 900-0850.

(Sgd.) ENER D. PANGAN
Chairman
PELCO II - PBAC

(PDI - June 3, 4 & 5, 2001)

Inquirer's Makati Branch



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PASCUAL A. VERON CRUZ

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 4, 2001 at the age of 84.

His wife **Socorro** (†); children **Cora** and **Ramon Barba**, **Edgar** and **Alice**, **Jun** and **Lorna**, **Covik** and **Marcel Scharer** (†); his wife **Lina** and son **Albert**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, sister **Toyang**, relatives and friends request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque after the 8:30 a.m. Mass on Thursday, June 7, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Chapel.

Our Dearly Beloved

ENGR. VICENTE C. SAN PEDRO

of **Pulilan, Bulacan**
*(husband of the late **Felicidad Torres**)*
Peacefully joined our Lord on June 3, 2001 at the age of 95.

His loving children **Cesar** and **Nita**, **Lilia** and **Cesar Madamba**, **Jorge** and **Zenaida**, **Jaime** and **Ritz**, **Helen** and **Edilberto Yaptinchay**, **Erlinda** and **Ven Señires**, **Joris** and **Edgardo Villena**, **Ruben** and **Estela**, **Ramon** and **Edith**, grandchildren and great grandchildren request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their home in Longos, Pulilan, Bulacan. Interment will be on Wednesday, June 6, 2001 at the Pulilan Catholic Cemetery after the Holy Mass at 1:30pm.

HECTOR U. VELEZ

of Daet, Camarines Norte and BF Homes, Parañaque City
Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 4, 2001 at the age of 74.

He is survived by his wife **Meya Garcia**; beloved children and daughter-in-law **Virgilio**, **Victor** and **Rosalia**, **Violeta** and **Minnie**; grandchildren **Carla**, **Geneve**, **Nicole** and **Miguel**.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 07, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"We know that God raisd the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

In Loving Remembrance
on the First Death Anniversary
of Our Beloved

ATTY. OFELIA B. IBAÑEZ

(Former Assistant Commissioner, B.I.R.)
of Morong, Bataan and Marikina City
who peacefully joined her Creator on 05 June 2000.

We, her family, relatives and friends deeply miss her presence but the memories of her love, goodness and kindness will always remain in our hearts forever.

The pious readers are requested to remember her in their prayers. Holy Masses will be offered today, Tuesday, 05 June 2001, 5:30 PM at St. Michael's Chapel, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City and St. Joseph Church, Nancho Estate, Marikina City, 6:00 PM.

SALUD CALUMA Vda. de ALARCON

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 1, 2001 at the age of 77.

Her husband **Paring** (†); children **Baby** and **Manolo**, **Chito** and **Claring**, **Rey** and **Vin**, and **Tess** and **Ivan**; grandchildren **Liezl**, **Irish**, **Chona**, **Faye**, **Owen**, **Sheila**, **Melanie**, **Arvin**, **Regine** and **Stephanie** request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at #40 P. Oliveros Street, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 6, 2001, 2:00 PM at Our Lady of Peace Memorial Park, Antipolo City.

"From darkness let the light Shine!"
Genesis 1:3

Argelino Manajero

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 2, 2001 in Davao Doctors Hospital at the age of 76.

His wife **Olympia L. Manajero**; aunt **Ana Andaya**; children **Nene**, **Guy**, **Jessica**, **Boy**, **Tito**, **Nora**, **Marilyn**, **Mary Ann**; nephews, nieces, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at 18 Diversion Road, Buhangin, Davao City.

We surrender to God

Enriqueta del Rosario Bautista
'Etang'

November 12, 1919 - June 3, 2001

Widow of **Patrocinio E. Bautista**

Her Children - **Sonny** and **Inday**, **Iñing** (†) and **Menchie**, **Lorna** and **Levy Hizon**

Her Grandchildren - **Chuckie** and **Leah**, **Carlo** and **Tani**, **Junji** and **Carol**, **Chinky**, **Camille**, **Pepen**, **Lennard** and **Sarah**, **Lorraine**, **Lance**

Her Great Grandchildren - **Migo**, **Katrina**, **Bettina**, **Diego**, **Isabelle**, **Gabriel**, **Raphael**

Her Sisters and Brothers-in-law - **Elo** and **Iloy Encarnacion**, **Idia** and **Adong** (†) **Bay**, **Efren**, **Mary**, **Azon** and **Ingo Molina**

all other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Etang lies in state at the Sanctuario de San Jose Memorial Chapel, Greenhills East, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 7, 2001 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at the Sanctuario de San Jose Memorial Chapel.

In loving memory of

Luz Puyat Martel

on her 77th Birthday,
June 5, 2001
Holy Masses will be offered in the following Churches:

SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO Forbes Park, Makati CIty	7:30 a.m.
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH Kalayaan Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City	6:30 a.m.
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila	6:15 p.m.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila	7:15 a.m.
OUR LADY OF EDSA SHRINE Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City	5:30 p.m.
DON BOSCO PARISH, ST. JOHN Pasay Road, Makati City	7:30 a.m.
HARRISON PLAZA CHAPEL Harrison Plaza, Malate, Manila	5:30 p.m.
ASSUMPTION PARISH Leveriza St.,. Malate, Manila	6:00 a.m.
MANILA CATHEDRAL Intramuros, Manila	7:30 a.m.
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH Quiapo, Manila	7:30 a.m.
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGUORI PARISH Humabon Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:15 a.m.
OUR LADY OF SORROW F.B. Harrison, Pasay City	7:00 a.m.

Her family requests all pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

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People, Events & Products

Aries B. Espinosa, Assistant Editor

E-MAIL: aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph
sprojects@inquirer.com.ph

Fast food chain engages in environment clean-up

JOLLIBEE Foods Corporation (JFC), in cooperation with Bantay Kalikasan and the International Earth Day Network 2001, has launched the 3rd "Paglilingkod sa Araw ng Kalikasan" (P.Ar.K) project at River Park, Marikina City.

Over 250 Jollibee stores from Isabela to Zamboanga participated in the nationwide environmental clean-up and beautification drive. Marikina mayor Bayani Fernando was the guest of honor.

"We have been receiving positive feedback regarding P.Ar.K so we thought of expanding the project this year," said Jollibee Foods Corporation District III operations manager Bambi Bejo.

Highlight of the event was a tree-planting ceremony wherein a total of 100 seedlings were planted at the River Park campsite. Bantay Kalikasan program director Marlo Mercado briefed the kids on the importance of tree-planting and environmental care to make them more aware on how to care for their surroundings.

SEVERAL Superkids Club members prepare to plant their tree seedlings. A total of 100 seedlings were planted at the River Park campsite during the centerpiece activity in Marikina City.

To make the event more exciting, Jollibee initiated a game for Marikina participants who aimed to make the clean-up drive more fun. Six teams engaged in a friendly competition for the following categories: most trash collected, most unique trash found (kakaibang basura) and the fastest team to finish its cleaning and greening assignments.

Superkids Club members, aged 7 to 12, from four Jollibee stores in Marikina City, participated in the centerpiece project. Jiselle Santiago, a 5-year old Superkids Club member, led the invocation while Jollibee-Riverbanks store manager Tonton Mercado served as host during the event.

Aside from the centerpiece event, there were also other environmental activities which were led by Jollibee stores nationwide. Some of these were gutter-cleaning activities along the whole stretch of Taft Avenue in Manila, gutter-painting at the Poblacion Park in Makati, and a clean-up of the coastal area of Barangay Tortugas in Balanga, Bataan.

Through the P.Ar.K. project, Jollibee aims to promote proper awareness and encourage environmental care among kids and the different communities it operates in.

SMART MONEY, MEGALINK INK DEAL

Smart Money card users may just soon electronically load cash into their e-cards by tapping their bank accounts through MegaLink ATMs. Wireless services leader Smart Communications, Inc., and MegaLink, one of the country's major ATM group, has signed Monday a memorandum of understanding to cooperate in developing applications that will permit Smart Money users to utilize MegaLink ATMs for various transactions. Photo shows (from left) Daniel Ibarra and Alex Ibasco of Smart mobile commerce team signing the agreement with Antonio Go, MegaLink president and Equitable-PCI Bank chair and Raul de Mesa, MegaLink director and president, Bank of Commerce.

Crucillo promoted to regional post

CRUCILLO

PETER Wilken, regional marketing director of BBDO Asia/Pacific recently announced the appointment of Melissa Crucillo as regional account director for Bayer.

Crucillo, along with a talented team, steered Bayer Philippines to the prestigious title of Asia's advertiser of the year from Media, Asia/Pacific's most respected trade publication on marketing and advertising. A remarkable feat based on exemplary creative work and exceptional market sales performance.

With this appointment, Peter Wilken has high hopes for Asia/Pacific. "We are confident that Melissa will help replicate the success of the Bayer brands in the Philippines to the rest of the region."

As the business director for BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, Crucillo spearheaded accounts such as Master Foods Inc. (the makers of M&M's, Snickers and Starburst), Suyen/Bench, Federal Express and Bayer Philippines.

"This is a well-deserved promotion and another tribute to the talent of the Filipino advertising practitioner," expressed Joselito Ortega, president of BBDO/Guerrero Ortega.

Prior to BBDO/Guerrero Ortega, Crucillo was the group director for Ogilvy and Mather Philippines with accounts such as Unilever and Kimberly Clark among others. She also had a stint with Levi Strauss Inc. as marketing services manager and Ace Saatchi and Saatchi.

BBDO/Guerrero Ortega is the local agency of the BBDO worldwide network – the current AdAge Global Agency network of the year. BBDO Worldwide is part of Omnicom Group, Inc., the leading marketing communications company in the world.

Nu Skin goes online

NU Skin Philippines (NSP) now provides an easier and faster access to Nu Skin products and a business opportunity as the company goes online at www.nuskin.com.ph

NSP's Online Service allows distributors and surfers alike to get product, business and industry information conveniently from one's home or office at any time of the day. The website offers comprehensive features, which include Nu Skin's corporate backgrounder; the Nu Skin business opportunity; corporate news and updates and the latest programs and promotions; and a product catalog, which includes helpful product and usage tips. Among its added features specially created for its distributors are the distributor bulletin board and volumes and genealogies online.

To its growing Nu Skin distributor force, this medium also makes a wonderful communications and sponsoring tool where distributors may reach individuals in every market in which Nu Skin does business.

For inquiries, contact Nu Skin Philippines' distributor support hotline at 689-0333 or visit www.nuskin.com.ph.

BIZO RAFFLE DRAW

Bizo Shoes recently concluded its three-month skateboard raffle promo with a draw held at its head office in Quezon City. Carmencita Cruz, (left) general manager of 128 Dream Fountain Corp., the exclusive distributor of Bizo Shoes and Cherry Camposano, DTI representative, headed the raffle draw which announced five Bizo patrons as winners of all-original American skateboards worth at least P6,000 each. The winners are Rolly Castro of Quezon City; June Pasay of Cardona, Rizal; Aris Gonzales of Parañaque; Ivie Bulaong of Malolos, Bulacan; and Criz Gonzaga of San Pablo City.

NESTLE ICE CREAM AT ACA VIDEO

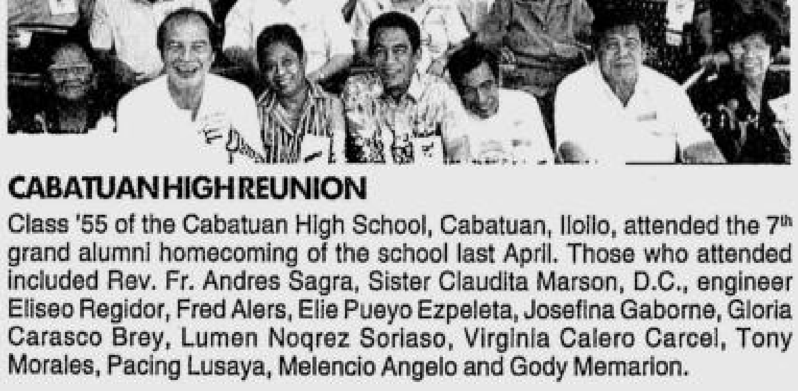
Now you can pick up your richer and creamier Nestlé Ice Cream with the best movies at ACA Video shops. Under an exclusive two-year contract, Nestlé Ice Cream will be served at all snack counters of ACA Video nationwide, and scooping stations will be set up outside selected shops. Nestlé Ice Cream division manager Ian Donald (right) and national sales manager Manny Go (second from right), sign the contract with ACA Video president Amable Aguiluz IX (second from left) and senior vice president Albert Trinidad (left). The ACA Video account is handled by Nestlé Ice Cream Food Services sales representative Popo Martinez and manager Cindy Banaria.

MANULIFE AWARDS TOP ASSOCIATES

Manulife Financial executive vice president and general manager for Asia Division Victor Apps honored the top regional associates of Manulife Philippines at the recently concluded annual awards night held at the Grand Ballroom of the Dusit Hotel Nikko. The awardees are (second from left) Lileth Garcia for the Southern Philippines Region; Fely Simbajon for Metro East Region; Esphie Chong for Metro North Region; and Ruby Chuaunsu for the Metro South Region. Also in photo are (far right) Manulife Philippines president and CEO Renato Vergel de Dios.

NEW PSTD BOARD

The Philippine Society for Training and Development (PSTD) has recently inducted its directors and officers for 2001. They are (seated from left) Glennser Soliman, internal auditor; Evelyn Lozada, PSTD president; Cecille Tera, secretary; Renato Serapio, (standing, from left) Gerald Guiang, Renato Dadula, treasurer; Hernan Espiritu, Edzel Escala and Julius Chavez. PSTD VP Rene Resurreccion and Avic Briones are not shown.



CABATUAN HIGH REUNION

Class '55 of the Cabatuan High School, Cabatuan, Iloilo, attended the 7th grand alumni homecoming of the school last April. Those who attended included Rev. Fr. Andres Sagra, Sister Claudita Marson, D.C., engineer Eliseo Regidor, Fred Alers, Elie Pueyo Ezpeleta, Josefina Gaborne, Gloria Carasco Brey, Lumen Noqrez Soriaso, Virginia Calero Carcel, Tony Morales, Pacing Lusaya, Melencio Angelo and Gody Memarion.

Clips

Upissi management course

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines, Institute for Small Scale Industries (Upissi) is pleased to announce the Management Development Course (MDC) from June 5 to July 5. Open to decision-makers, managers, entrepreneurs, and supervisors, the course seeks to develop and upgrade the managerial manpower of the business enterprises that want to improve the productivity, quality and competitiveness in the local and international markets. Sessions will be held Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at E.T. Virata Hall, E. Jacinto Street, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City. Call the training department of Upissi at 926-6316 or 928-7076 to 79, or e-mail training@upissi.net.

Adarna House's back to school sale

ADARNA House, the country's first children's book publisher, invites you to its Back to School Sale. Come and visit Adarna and avail of big discounts on your favorite children's books. The sale will run from May 21 to June 8. Adarna house is located at 73A Scout Limbaga Street, Barangay Laging Handa, Quezon City. For inquiries, call Hannah Gomez at 372-3548 to 49 or e-mail sales@adarna.com.ph

Qurino High homecoming

THE QUIRINO High School Batch 1971 will celebrate its 30th alumni homecoming on July 7, Thursday, at the QHS Campus in Molave and Banuyo Streets, Project 3, Quezon City. For particulars, call 656-0851 (telefax) or email qhsbatch1971@edsamail.com.

Café Overdrive anniversary bash

TWO YEARS, two bands, one night. Café Overdrive throws an anniversary party on June 6, Wednesday, at 9:30 p.m. with Passage and Toy Symphony in cooperation with Joey 92.3 and Ford Makati. Brought to you in part by Male Power (the strength to be on top). Perskindol (relieves muscle aches and joint pains the natural way), Collomack (the first and only solution with polidocanol for the painless removal of corn, calluses and warts) and Sea-Air (wings with style). Café Overdrive is located at second floor of Ford Makati Building, 2287 Pasong Tamo extension, Makati City. For inquiries call Michelle or Connie at 818-5555 local 567/568 or 813-1348 (direct). Visit www.cafeoverdrive.com.

DLSU-Manila confers top Vatican exec

ARCHBISHOP Jean-Louis Tauran, the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with the States, arrived last Friday for a five-day visit to the country. As part of Archbishop Tauran's five-day round in the Philippines, a visit to DLSU-Manila will be made, as the University confers him the degree of Doctor of Humanities in international relations today, June 5, 4 p.m. at the M. Gaerlan Conservatory. Aside from becoming a distinguished Vatican Ecclesiastical Diplomat, he is also acknowledged as a public affairs specialist and a Canon Law expert.

Int'l projects director conducts seminars

INTERNATIONAL Education Specialists (Inter-Ed) announced Dr. Donald R. Culton, international projects director for Irvine Valley and Saddleback Colleges, is in Manila to conduct public seminars and interviews on educational opportunities in California. Culton's program includes two public seminars on June 4 and 5, 5:30 p.m. and interview sessions on June 5, 3-5 p.m. and June 6, 10-4 p.m. at the Inter-Ed office, second floor of Trafalgar Plaza, H.V. de la Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City. For more information on the seminars and interviews call Inter-Ed at 819-1001, 819-1002, 0917-2032821, fax 810-2825 or e-mail inter-ed@info.com.ph.

Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao reopens

THE WATERFRONT group announced that Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao will resume operations early next month. Waterfront Insular Hotel is one of the largest in Davao, with a total of 155 rooms and a number of food and beverage outlets just like its counterparts in Cebu and Mactan. Set in a garden setting, it is nestled in the gulf of Davao and is in close proximity to the international airport, an 18-hole golf course and the city center. The reopening of Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao was welcomed by the business community in Davao, especially by the Department of Tourism regional office. The development is seen to augur well for the local tourism industry. Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao is expected to resume full operations within the third quarter. Initially, 50 rooms will be available for accommodation during the soft opening today, June 5.

Golf tournament for IT professionals

"BUSINESS Solutions Golf," a tournament organized by The Online Advanced Systems Corporation for its business partners, IT executives and professionals, will tee off today, June 5, 8 a.m. at the Manila Golf and Country Club in Forbes Park, Makati. Sponsored by Abbe Technology Solutions, Inc., together with Hitachi and Stratus, the tournament will gather amateur and professional golfers from the IT industry and the corporate world. Also expected to grace the event are professional golf coaches who will help out beginners. Abbe Technology Solutions is the premier storage solutions provider in the Philippines and a business partner of EMC Systems Corporation. For details call 840-0488 local 206.

Shakey's offers free dream vacation

SHAKEY's, the country's well-loved pizza, together with on-time great value airline Cebu Pacific, recently kicked off its latest offering, the "Food 'n' Fun Trips." This three-month nationwide promo gives thousands of Shakey's lovers a chance of winning a free dream vacation at scenic Cebu, Davao or Manila for a 3-day, 2-night pure holiday. Just visit any Shakey's outlet and for every P150 food and drink purchase, you'll automatically receive a Shakey's "passport" that would be your key to join the raffle. The passport carries several discount offers as well. Promo period is from April 5 to June 30. Grand raffle draw is on July 13.

PART OF GMA'S 'HEALING MISSION'

Creba, NHA sign joint-venture agreement on socialized housing

CREBA chair Manuel M. Serrano, Pamintuan and Goyareb sign the NHA-Creba joint-venture agreement on social housing projects. Looking on are Creba Batangas chapter president Nina Alacantara and Dr. Jaime A. Cura, (far right) immediate past Creba national president and incumbent director.

NATIONAL president Charlie V. Gorayeb of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) and lawyer Edgardo D. Pamintuan, general manager of the National Housing Authority forged Thursday an NHA-Creba joint-venture agreement on socialized housing for low-income and marginal income families.

At the agreement's signing during the Creba monthly business meeting at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City, Secretary Michael T. Defensor, in a message from Seoul, Korea, called Creba "pillars of the private sector housing industry" and sought its help in revitalizing the housing sector. He said that "Creba's support is critical to the success of our program."

For the people

Both Defensor and Pamintuan said the joint social housing agreement strengthens the government-Creba partnership "for the benefit of our people."

Pamintuan said the NHA-Creba partnership would be a big boost to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's housing program. It is, he said, a response to the President's call to alleviate the plight of millions of homeless Filipino families as part of her "healing mission" for unity and long-term progress.

Gorayeb called on Creba members to join the NHA in its socialized housing projects on joint-venture arrangements, particularly in areas outside Metro Manila.

Creba has been advocating for the adoption of a comprehensive home finance system to produce some 500,000 socialized housing units to cope with the 3.5 million housing shortage in the country. The chamber had earlier discussed with Defensor the features of its package of housing program reforms.

Legacy of accomplishments

After the signing of the agreement, Pamintuan stressed the government's housing sector is "now more than ever united, dynamic and responsive to the needs of our homeless Filipinos." Under the leadership of Secretary Defensor, he said, the government housing sector "means business and intends to leave a legacy of accomplishments addressing our country's growing housing problem."

Cited were the distribution of certificates of title and lot assignment and the declaration of 2,000 hectares of government land for housing, completion of major slum upgrading, sites and services programs, and grant of housing loans, all initially benefiting more than 170,000 families.

Creba members will assume the principal role in the joint-venture undertaking either by themselves or in partnership with local government units, landowners, builders and other private sector parties.

The NHA's role is to provide equity up to 40 percent or interim financing of the project cost. The Home Guaranty Corp. will appraise the equity contributions of the parties in terms of raw land.

POWER BOWL OPENS

Rockwell Land president Tong Padilla, former President Corazon Aquino, Rockwell Land chair Manuel M. Lopez and world champion billiards player Efren "Bata" Reyes Jr. grace the grand opening of the 26-lane Power Bowl at Power Plant, the Rockwell Center's six-level shopping mall. Located at the third level of the mall, the 500-square-meter, high-tech bowling center features the AMF extreme glow in the dark sound and light show with disco quality lights and fog machine.

Full-swing dev't at Camella Homes in Teresa, Rizal

CAMELLA Homes has initiated its bid to further expand into Rizal with the completion of several stylish model houses for La Hacienda and by offering lot inventories in Alta Montagna, which is set to be two of its biggest affordable housing projects in the town of Teresa.

Marcelino C. Mendoza, chief executive officer of Camella Homes, said they chose to develop in Teresa because it is near Metro Manila to allow daily travel, yet removed far enough to enable residents to escape from the fast-paced life and the pollution.

Mendoza added that apart from these, the present leadership of Teresa has developed the town enough to have wide cemented roads and the communication infrastructure but have been able to maintain the town's old-world charm and cleanliness.

"With a healthy environment and the warm and friendly residents, we sincerely believe that by offering affordable housing, we will encourage more people to live in these wonderful surroundings," Mendoza said.

La Hacienda model houses are open for viewing. Visitors can already pick up ideas on how to give the exterior and living space of their would-be homes a personal touch since these models are fully furnished and livable. Also included are interior designs that best maximize living space.

In developing La Hacienda and Alta Montagna, Camella Homes decided to follow the contour of the land and preserve the natural greenery of the surroundings. With these, residents of these two subdivisions are sure to enjoy the natural beauty of Teresa, making their chosen home an ideal setting to live in and raise their family.

The model houses are Alyssa, Alliah, Feliz and Evita. For more information, visit Camella Homes website at www.camella.com.ph.

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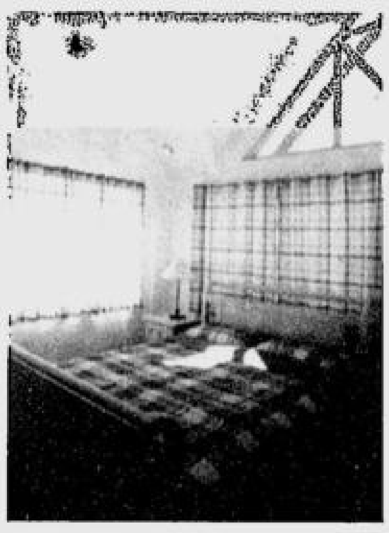
Young interior architect creates cozy hideaways in Georgetown



ROSEWOOD Manor's cozy bedroom invites you to a shut-eye.

PIXIE designed this dining room of Georgetown's Rosewood Manor model unit.

THERE'S no place like home, home being a place evoking feelings of comfort, delight, contentment, security, tranquility—a sanctuary for body and soul.

Georgetown Lakeview Vacation Estate in Metro Tagaytay offers a generous mix of all these. Snugly tucked into the bosom of the Taal belt with a breathtaking view of its historical lake and volcano, this quiet enclave community offers a retreat from the frenzied pace of urban living.

Other factors that draw people to Georgetown are the interiors of their two model units—the Rosewood Manor and Cedarbrook—done by Paris-educated interior architect (as they are referred to in Europe) Melissa "Pixie" Olivares.

Pixie finished Interdisciplinary Studies at the Ateneo de Manila University in 1991. Always been drawn to the arts, she decided to pursue a six-year Interior Architecture course at Paris' prestigious Ecole Superieure des Arts Grarphiques et d'Architecture d'Interieure.

'One-man' office

Pixie set up her "one-man" office in Manila in 1998. The pretty and soft-spoken 31-year-old interior architect, however, does not discount the possibility of eventually expanding her operations depending on business opportunities. Her initial projects included the interiors of the condominium lobby of Easton Place in Makati and a condo residence. She was a consultant of Aresi Restaurant. Currently finishing Georgetown's clubhouse and a Wack Wack residence, Pixie says she loves to work on different projects and does not want to be stereotyped into doing just one kind of structure or limiting herself to a particular theme because she finds it stifling.

She designed Georgetown's model homes with the following factors in mind—the climatic environs, client preferences and lifestyle, and last but not the least, functionality. "Happily, I've been given more or less a free reign in doing the interiors," she says.

Minimalist style

For one, her minimalist style was clearly manifested in Rosewood Manor and Cedarbrook. "I like simple things. I don't like the 'cluttered' look."

Since the model units are American country style homes, Pixie decided to give them that light, airy feeling. "I livened up the Cedarbrook unit with lots of color." The master bedroom, for example, was done in off white paint and filled with hues of green, gray and yellow gold. "For a little whimsy, I chose a four-poster bed which you don't usually find in a master bedroom in the Philippines," she continues. The other rooms were done in brown, yellow, green, lavender and apple green. The decision to put the fireplace between the living and dining rooms were also Pixie's idea to provide free-flowing space allowing both rooms to benefit from the warmth of the fireplace.

"I tried to broaden the concept of an American country home in the Rosewood model unit," Pixie explains. White-on-white fabrics, with dart accents, dominated the unit.

The best advice that Pixie can give to developers and homeowners alike is to "know what you want first, then work toward achieving it." She adds that the interior designer should work hand in hand with the architect from the conceptualization and planning stage.

Pixie is busy working on the interiors of Georgetown's clubhouse due for inauguration this month.

Still another good reason to visit Georgetown and see appreciate the talents of this promising inferior architect.

Tegula raises roofing standards

FOR MANY decades now, Tegula Filipina Concrete Roof Tiles has provided an excellent roofing alternative to many Filipinos. Manufactured by Vazquez Commodities Corp., Tegula prides itself for being a truly Filipino-made and -patented housing product.

Says Vazcom chief operations officer Greg Macaraig: "Tegula also uses indigenous materials, thus, helps conserve the country's dollar reserve. And the fact that Vazcom is a solely Filipino-owned company, definitely, has a positive impact on our economy."

Being the pioneer in producing quality concrete roof tiles, countless homeowners have already attested to the commendable qualities of Tegula, he says. Adds Macaraig: "And through the years, Tegula has become synonymous to strength and durability. It is rust-free, fireproof and is proven strong to withstand earthquakes and stop bullets. It also has an interlocking system, which allows for easy installation and protects the roof from strong typhoon winds.

Another welcome benefit of Tegula is its ability to maintain the coolness inside the house. Unlike GI sheets, which conducts and radiates heat, Tegula is a good insulator and helps preserve a desirable temperature inside the house. Tegula, therefore, is an excellent choice for a tropical country like ours, Macaraig concludes. "So whether rain or shine, Tegula is the roof to beat."

Furthermore, it is also elegant yet affordable. Says Macaraig: "In fact, houses that use Tegula automatically enhance their esthetic qualities and thereby also increase their marketability. That's why Tegula is a choice roofing material among contractors."

And he cites architect Antonio Lilles of Lilles Development Corp., builder of luxurious but affordable homes as an example. "After all, nothing beats the original," Macaraig adds.

At present, Tegula and Vazpave pavers are on sale at all Vazcom outlets all over the country.

Dutch Boy sets quality benchmark for paints

DUTCH Boy Philippines Inc. has consistently set the highest standards in the manufacture of superior quality paints.

The superior quality of Dutch Boy was again proven in scientific product quality tests recently conducted by the standards and testing division of the Industrial Technology Development Institute (Itdi), the premier research and development institute under the Department of Science and Technology.

Equipped with modern laboratories and facilities, Itdi tests and evaluates the quality of raw materials and products manufactured by industries. As the sole arbiter between parties in disputes over product quality, Itdi assures the public of quality and safe consumer products and encourages industries to practice fair and competitive trade.

The Itdi tests evaluated the leading paint brands, which included Dutch Boy, on six film properties, namely: adhesion, whiteness, gloss, flexibility, hardness and in-can stability. Involved were six types of paint: quick-drying enamel, flatwall enamel, semigloss enamel, gloss latex, semigloss latex and flat latex.

Based on the overall ratings across the six film properties, Dutch Boy ranked first in four out of the six types of paint. "This reinforces the reputation of Dutch Boy as a superior quality paint," said president Alfredo Tabita. "Moreover, the results of the Itdi product quality tests affirm our commitment to provide our customers with reliable and quality products and services."

Dutch Boy Philippines is one of the top players in the paint industry. It manufactures hundreds of types of superior quality paints for household, commercial and industrial applications. It has paints and coats for concrete and wood surfaces, woodcraft, flooring, as well as metal, marine and special finishes.

Sentricon . . .

(From page B10)

the industry standard and we, as operators, are also growing professionally. There is always training, not only for ourselves but also for our technicians. We have a strong partnership with Dow. We get strong technical support. At times, they even provide us with client leads. We simply do the closing," he says.

"Our success depends largely on the success of our operators," Dillague admits. "We transfer the technology but they are the ones who do the service. Since the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System requires more regular evaluation and monitoring than the traditional termite control strategy, our licensed pest control operators develop more interrelationship [illegible] homeowners. So we have adopted a more [illegible] marketing strategy. It is important [illegible] our customers satisfied. Delivery of service is

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Philippine Real Estate: A Catch 22 ?

Ms. Janette Hernandez is the chairman of the Real Estate Brokers' Association of the Philippines. This is what she has to say about the real estate industry today...

The "after-election" real estate buying fever is a sign that people acknowledge that the right time to build their wealth is now. Our economy may be down but that's the main ingredient in real estate investing. But there is no mistaking the success story of the most famous and richest people in the world who built their wealth through real estate. Even the modern day Information Technology wealth builders undoubtedly sink funds into real estate too, and that's actually where the real wealth is coming from because real estate is a tangible asset.

If I were to personally make a real estate investment, what area will I consider ? First, consider that I am a person who moves a lot, within the city and out of the country. Security is important to me plus a sound structure. Distance becomes irrelevant in the advent of computer technology. I often do business in the comfort of my home and office anyway.

Most recently, I did a tour of Manila, the Roxas Boulevard strip and surrounding streets, until the Intramuros side. I have not really sunk into the NOW Manila atmosphere that is emerging this side of town until lately. I used to think that Manila has gone down to the dumps...But I was surprised to discover that a bay area cleanliness drive has been very much in place and effective. And the Ermita establishments are pouring out into the strip to get a better ambience of the sunset and the sea. For another, the Chinese feng shui and the yin and yang principle have also set the mood for believers to consider the earth, sky and water elements essential to a person's spiritual and physical well being.

I realize how much people in some areas such as the Central Business Districts are missing out on. People talk about "the view" and "prime location" as the key words to influence property investing. One place that has the rightful claim to these key factors is Roxas Boulevard, most specifically, and the nearby streets. All over the world, note that the best prime real estate are the ones by the shoreline or coast or bay area. Features like these cannot be bought. Views like the sea cannot be had anywhere.

One particular project I took a meticulous look at is 1322 Roxas Boulevard. I take my hats off to the developers for continuing to aspire their vision. It is not a joke to go through building a big project like theirs in times of crisis. Many other similar developments have stopped, but they are now nearing the finishing stage. I got so curious and did my own investigation of this project as I was very much aware of the many rumours surrounding the completion of the building. After my investigation, I discovered how much determination was put into delivering the project.

Aside from the aesthetics and features of 1322 Roxas Boulevard, there is the history-rich ambience that is also not something other areas can claim much about. The combined old and new is ever present in the area. Amidst the hustle and bustle of life in the city, the feeling of serenity is clawed inside you the minute you look out the window directly to the Manila Bay view, unobstructed from any angle. On top of the building material specifications that make it a sound structure, the location being across the US embassy, is a major security feature. How on earth can one go wrong ? Money is not an object once you have a piece of investment like this. And just like any type of investment, your own personal investigation will still be your last card to deciding. You'll still have to rely on your own feel about a place. After all, it's your money and your future.

REAL ESTATE

CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor

'Tell us where to build,' developers urge gov't

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

THE MAGNITUDE of the backlog in housing is so great that the Philippines would need 650,000 new units annually to satisfy the population growth rate of 2.4 percent, the highest in Asia.

Despite the 3.5 million housing backlog of the government, and almost 50 percent of the population now living in the urban areas, local housing developers are themselves like homeless children asking their parents—the government—where to locate their projects.

The Subdivision and Housing Developers Association said the government gets away with the practice of piecemeal and case-to-case land conversion and environmental clearance for housing, which serves as a major bottleneck in implementing any housing program.

Where to locate

The SHDA believes the government should guide developers on where to locate their projects. SHDA executive director Sonny Ducay laments the fact that developers themselves are applying for the conversion.

Says Ducay: "What is important right now is not to point fingers, but to identify areas of cooperation and synergy because we must help the government. The magnitude of housing problems is so great the government cannot do it alone."

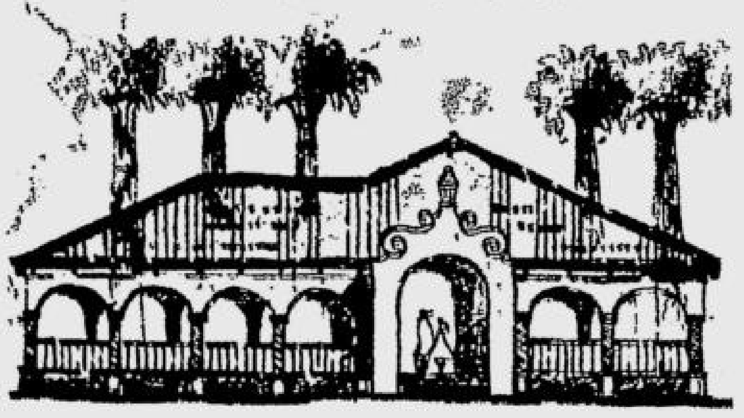
He encourages private financial institutions to pour money into housing, as such efforts can be used to pump-prime economic development.

Overall national land use program

The SHDA stresses that the government should pursue the adoption of an overall national land use program so developers and allied organizations would have a guide on where to locate housing development projects.

It notes that many developed countries focus on preparing an overall land use plan.

SHDA national president Mariano D. Martinez, meanwhile, submitted a proposal to the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. The proposal included a statement of support to the government shelter initiatives, which include an executive order to speed up the implementation of the government's mass housing program through the adoption of a proactive national land use, planning, allocation and zoning process.



NEWEST RESIDENTIAL VENTURE

Sta. Lucia Realty and Development Inc. will present its newest residential venture in Tagaytay, Cavite, at the investors' cocktail on Friday at the Luneta room, Bayview Park Hotel in Manila. Sotogrande is a 21-hectare residential estate that integrates the green community concept that balances a suburban environment with nature. Designed by MLA Land Planning, Sotogrande has a 205-square-meter clubhouse with luxurious amenities such as swimming pool, two tennis courts and a covered basketball court. A motif guardhouse, ornate street signs, decorative perimeter fencing and pedestrian portals will create a neoclassical Spanish Mediterranean ambience for the estate.

PEST CONTROL

Sentricon system raises industry standard

HOMEOWNERS, who are confronted with the inevitable termite problem, used to call their friendly neighborhood termite exterminator and get him to work on the rests with his ubiquitous pesticide spray. Chances are, the solution would be temporary and the termites would be back in no time to wreck havoc once again. But not anymore. With the Sentricon Termite Colony Elimination System, "you no longer have to deal with a man and a can," points out Rouela P. Dillague, marketing manager of Dow AgroSciences.

"Sentricon has improved our image as professional pest control operators," says Jonathan C. David, general manager of Pest-Away Exterminating Supply and Services. "Before, consumers used to look at us as fly-by-night operators, *manloloko*," David recalls. "There was really no standard for termite control, no technical know-how. As long as you know how to spray and you had clients, that's it. However, you got a lot of call backs because you succeeded only in reducing the termite population but the problem was still there."

With Sentricon, we learned to follow a standard procedure. What should be the first thing we should do when we inspect the structure? What do we look for? What kind of termite species is destroying the structure? David explains. "Before, our attitude was, a termite is a termite is a termite. But it's important to know the species so that it becomes easier to control the situation."

"We are now in the age of using less pesticides," David observes. "The Sentricon Colony Elimination System is a baiting system, which used to be unheard of. It is effective in eliminating the colony at the same time that it addresses the environmental concern."

"It used to be unthinkable, a total departure from the way things were done in the past," he adds.

Structural protection

Dillague agrees. "Before, you could have tons and tons of chemicals being introduced in the environment, and you were still faced with unmet needs. Now, with Sentricon, we have met the very basic customer need, which is structural protection. A homeowner, who values his property, looks at it as an investment. He'd like his house to last three generations at structural protection and not only termite control. The Sentricon System is anchored on structural protection.

The Sentricon Termite Control Elimination system eliminates the need to drill through the floors and units of structures. Instead, the system is designed to detect and completely eliminate entire termite colonies. It takes three steps.

First, the structure is inspected for termites damage and foraging or mud tubes. Sentricon stations are installed in the ground near known termite infestations and in areas where termites are likely to forage. These stations are checked regularly by well-trained Sentricon pest control professionals. If suffices termites are found inside the monitoring device, the baiting procedure begins immediately.

The second step results in the elimination of the colony. The Sentricon-trained expert starts the "self-recruitment" procedure by collecting the termites from the infested monitoring device and placing them into the recruitment chamber of the Baitube. Termites are very sensitive and can detect any disturbance so that only a trained expect can do this procedure effectively. Sentricon technicians receive extensive training on termite biology and behavior. The Baitube contains Recruit termite bait with hexaflumuron, an insect growth regulator that disrupts the worker termites' vital molting process so they are unable to grow. As a result, they die. The death of the worker termites that feed the colony leads to the eventual death and destruction of the colony.

The third step involves the preventive protection of the structure. After a colony has been eliminated, termite Baitube devices are removed and replaced with new monitoring devices. Sentricon stations remain in the ground to be checked regularly. This third step can continue indefinitely to allow detection of future termite activity from other colonies

Industry standard

"It is the best technology and the only one that can claim colony elimination," David remarks. "It raised

SENTRICON/p.B9

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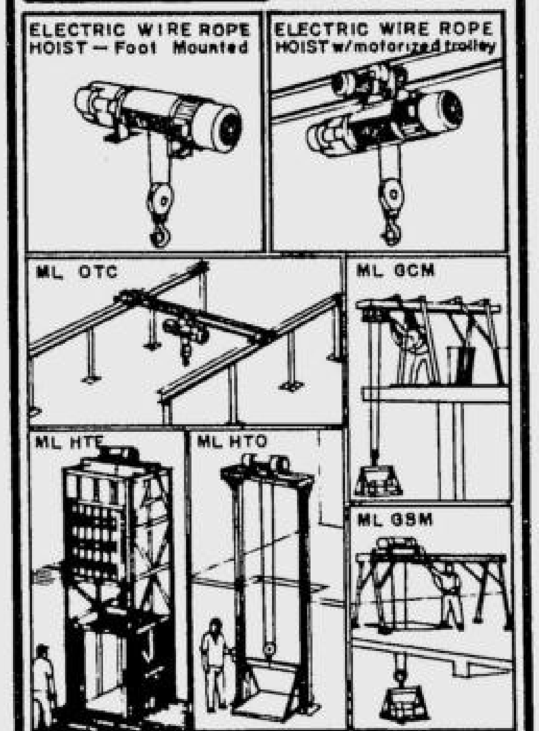
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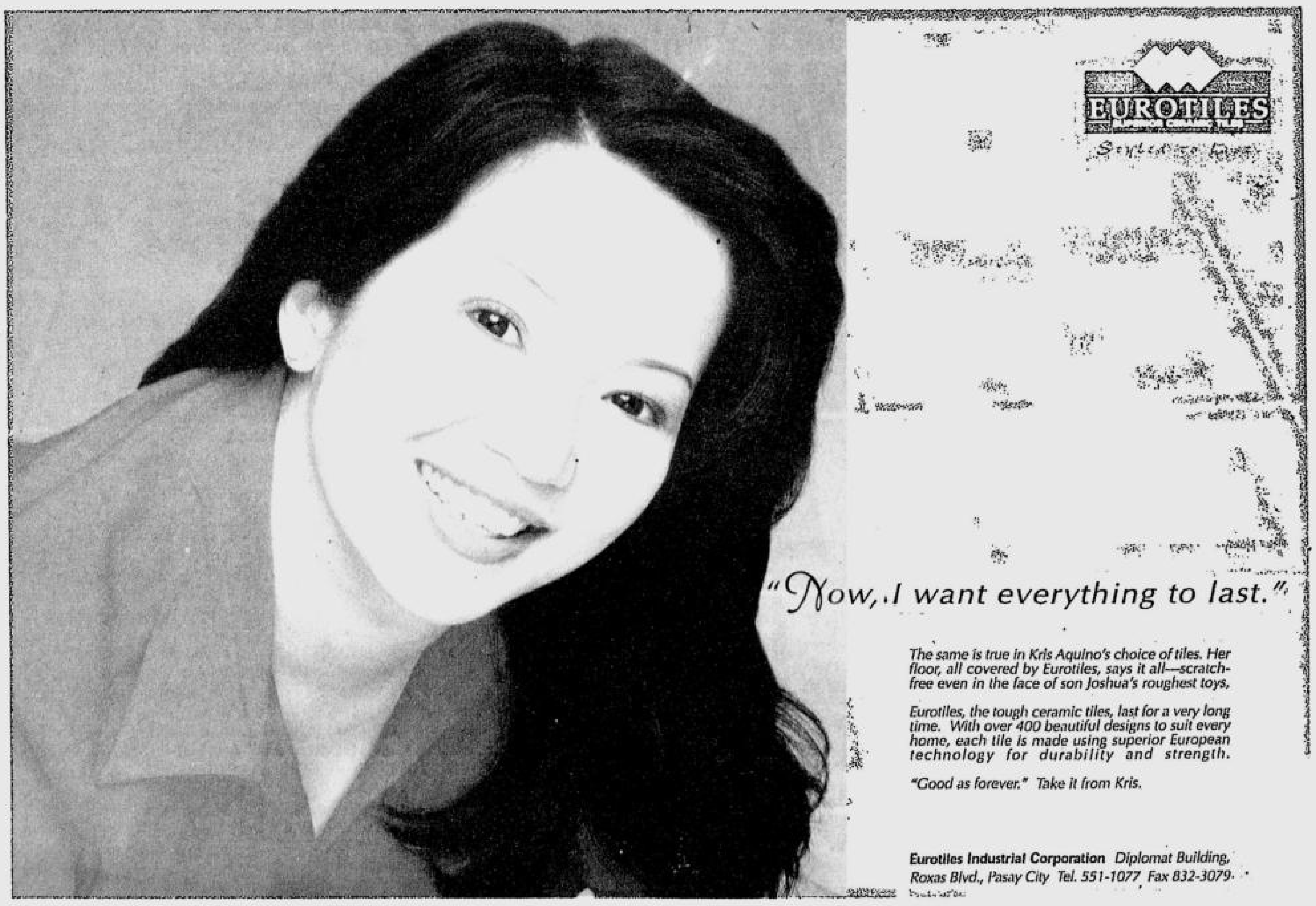
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LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Fitness

A wellness program for inmates

Detainees in city jails need some fitness training to keep their bodies intact before their spirits can be saved

By Constantino C. Tejero

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

THE PARAÑAQUE City Jail is one of the most congested detention centers in the country. Located at the left wing of the Parañaque City Hall, with nine cells in a two-story building on a floor area of some 300 sq m, the jail has an ideal capacity of 200. However, its actual population today is nearly 500. There are 409 male adults, 48 female adults, 22 male minors and three female minors distributed 30-50 in each cells, which ideally can accommodate only 10-15 inmates.

It's a tight spot, extraordinarily so. The sleeping quarters look like catacombs, with each bunk accommodating two. There are less than 20 beds for the men, so most have to sleep on the floor.

A typical passageway looks like a long alley about 3 ft wide. One has to make one's way through the maze ever so gingerly so as not to touch another inmate and set off a riot.

In a concept paper provided by Caritas Manila, a 38-year-old detainee has been quoted as saying: *"Bawat araw na nilalagi ko rito ay parang isang araw sa impiyerno. Tingnan mo, napakaliit ng selda namin, siksikan pa kami. Halinhinan pa nga kaming matulog sa gabi. Pakiramdam ko para kaming sardinas. Makatarungan ba ito, samantalang hindi pa napapatunayan ng hukuman na may pagkakasala ako?"*

Jail apostolate

It was these conditions that NGO volunteer Lolita Delgado Fansler saw when she visited the Parañaque City Jail last month, and moved her to do something about it. Fansler, president of Phinma Foundation, was in the company of ambassador Ramon del Rosario, vice chair of Caritas and chair of Phinma, who has made it his mission to visit Metro Manila jails.

Caritas has instituted the Prison Justice and Development Program (PJDP) and conducts its apostolate in the 16 city, municipal and district jails in Metro Manila, and two national prisons, ministering to thousands of indigent, sick and visitorless inmates.

Through the Integrated Pastoral Program for the Rehabilitation of the Correctional Community, PJDP gives five service components: Education/formation program, worship, service, temporalities and advocacy.

Since the Catholic Women's League and Caritas Manila have been taking care of the spiritual needs of inmates, Fansler believes there must be something for the body as well. So she thought of a physical fitness program for them.

"These people are not given time each day to walk around in a yard for some exercise," says Fansler. "In their cells, they just squat on the floor (no chairs), sit on planks that serve as beds, or stand, with nothing to do. There isn't much room to stretch their bodies and legs, and few activities to keep them occupied, productive, learning, or whatever."

While initially she didn't think it was possible to change the condition that there was no place for inmates to go to for some sunlight, she thought that there might be a way for them to get some exercise. "The airlines feature exercise routines that can be done while stuck in the airline seat," she notes.

Wellness program

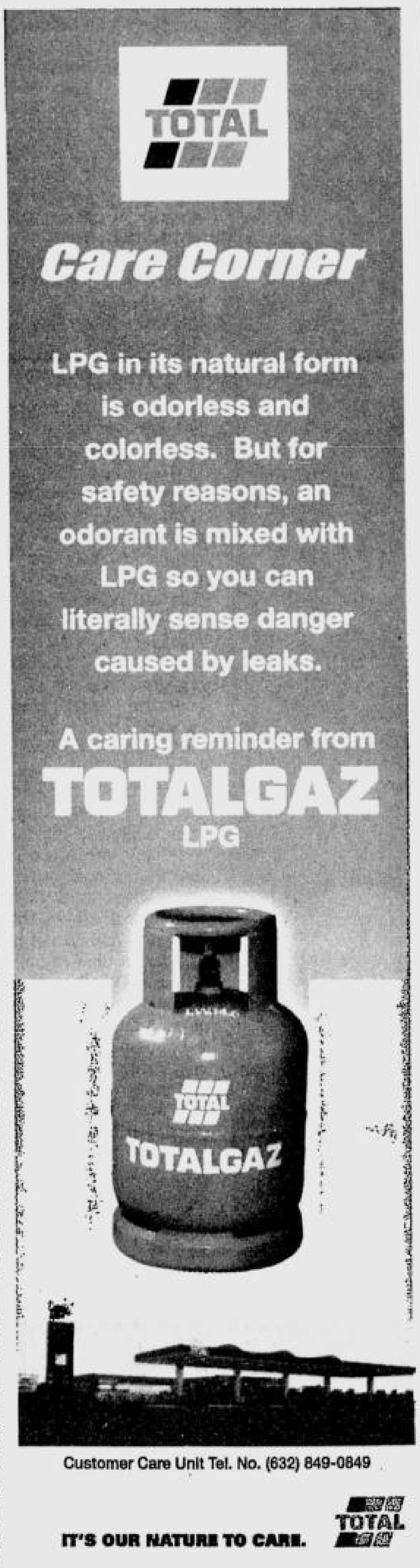
Fansler talked to her aerobics instructor, who agreed to teach exercises one can do even if "limited to one body's worth of space."

And this isn't just any aerobics instructor. She is Ley Fernandez, president of the Philippine International Competitive Aerobics Federation (Picaf), and program development director of Bender & Strands Fitness Intelligence.

After a talk with Commissioner Cynthia Carrion, who is in charge of sectoral sports at the Philippine Sports Commission, it has been agreed that the PSC will spearhead the program. On the third week of June, the PSC with the assistance of Picaf and Caritas Manila will launch the program as a pilot project.

It will start with training two representatives from each of the nine

A WELLNESS/ p.C5



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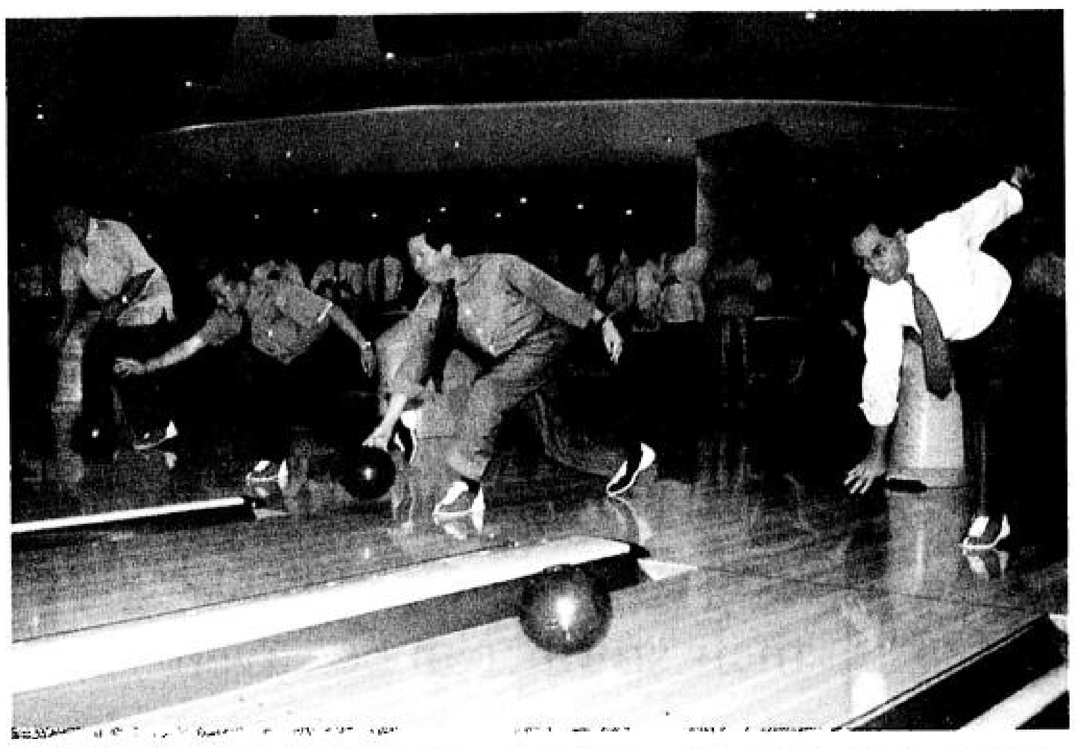

HIGH PERFORMANCE. Steve Psinakis, Lopez Group of Companies chair Oscar Lopez, Rockwell Land chair Manuel Lopez and Rockwell Land president Tong Padilla find out if they can score a strike.

POWER GUESTS. (L-R) Judge Camilo Quiason, Efren Reyes, former President Corazon Aquino, Windows Café owner Deedee Lopa and Precy Lopez-Psinakis

Power-boosting activities to go with shopping

WORLD champion Efren "Bata" Reyes offers. playing tips to actress Gretchen Barretto.

ROCKWELL Power Plant Mall opens Power Bowl, another leisure sport attraction for families, friends and business partners. Power Bowl boasts of 26 High Performance Lanes (HPL) as well as an adjoining section for challenging games of billiards.

Being the first of its kind in the Philippines, the Power Bowl lanes boast of the latest development in bowling lanes. Among the features of HPL are the glow track of extreme bowl for avid bowling players while the durabowl bumpers are perfect for kids and beginners.

The highest scores ever bowled in the US in league and tournament play were bowled on HPL lanes. Customers have better performance with lanes made of synthetic material and feature a special topcoat that improves scoring.

The bowling lanes are also equipped with the latest 8290 XL Pinspotter machine models. These pinspotters showcase moving parts of any other machine, which significantly eliminate noise. The pinspotters also feature a micro processor controlled self-diagnostic LCD display system and a cycle time of 8.8 seconds, making them the fastest in the world.

Players can enjoy uninterrupted games with the computerized user-friendly scoring grid. The monitor scoring also features over 100 custom-animated computer graphics, which adds fun to every frame. Messages can also be displayed on monitors, perfect for advertising or to let club members know of upcoming events.

The Boss scoring and front-desk system feature two lower consoles with Custom keyboard and dual VGA overhead color monitors. The high-resolution screen and Boss silver front desk package features user-friendly Windows NT operating system. The easy-to-use front counter design and superior micros POs system speed up customer service, freeing up more time for the manager to spend with the client.

Players and spectators alike will enjoy the ergonomic design of the options seating and tables for bowling after a long work day or for extreme bowling nights. The seats and tables are aesthetically pleasing, allows comfort and freedom of movement.

Whether on the lanes or on the seating area, bowling is made a lot more fun by the AMF extreme glow-in-the-dark sound-and-light show.

Among the other amenities are the house selection of comfortable and durable imported AMF shoes as well as the smart ball house system that allows the customer to find the perfect fit and size of bowling balls.

After a challenging game of bowling and billiards, Windows Café offers hearty menu selections to satisfy the hungry players needing a quick bite or a full meal. Right at the middle of the 500-sq m state-of-the-art Power Bowl, energy refill for bowling and billiard players is definitely within reach.

Power Bowl is located at the 3/L of the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell Center. Call 898-1624.

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4. All prizes are tax paid. No fees are required to claim prizes.

5. Promo period is from May 5, 2001 to August 31, 2001.

6. Prizes not claimed after sixty (60) days from the last day of the promotional period (August 31, 2001) will be forfeited. Any winning chip claimed after October 31, 2001 will not be valid.

7. Employees of Nestle Philippines Inc. and its Agencies, Vassar Industries, and DOH-BFAD as well as their relatives up to the 2nd civil degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining this promotion.

8. All major prizes are convertible to cash except for the 15 Nokia Cellphones and 10 Playstation 2.

9. All travel prizes will cover only economy airfare expenses via airline to be chosen by Nestle. US VISA is not guaranteed for winners of US trip.

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FOR MIND AND BODY

Popular actor and Olympic contender for tae kwon do Monsour del Rosario gives pointers in his lecture and kick-boxing training session for the Pharmaton Mind and Body Works series which was held recently at the Sprint Fitness Center in Ortigas, Pasig City. The free session also included yoga classes conducted by Elita Salgado.

Concerned Filipinos abroad write on what's happening to the country

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I THOUGHT I was through writing about the numerous reactions of readers to my May 22 column on Erap and the Filipino mentality. But the subsequent e-mails that came in, mostly from overseas Filipinos, show their strong emotional ties with their country of origin and really care what happens to it.

The insights that some of them wrote about are worth sharing with our countrymen. From these we may learn how our *kababayans* abroad look at our country. Many offered innovative solutions, which are really eye-openers. Here are excerpts:

Teach Filipinos win-win attitude

I came upon your commentary on the INQUIRER website. I must say you have a point when you say that "our way of thinking, our consciousness and sense of awareness" must be changed for the situation in the Philippines to change.

It's unfortunate that, in general, Filipinos do have the seemingly ingrained "crab mentality." Is it their consciousness that must be changed? If so, I strongly agree. It seems people need to make sure there's something for them before doing a favor for another.

I'm currently observing from a distance and I can't help but feel helpless and inept at figuring out how the Philippines can rise above its collective pettiness and tunnel vision. Despite the distance, my ties to the motherland cannot completely be broken, even if I wanted to. So I find myself checking on what's happening there every day, hoping that positive news will be on the headlines, but I guess that would be an oxymoron.

The crab mentality will remain, but for Filipinos to succeed, they will just have to work around it. There's a corporate term I came across often as a manager and which I try to achieve: A win-win situation (instead of win-lose). Maybe this is something Filipinos can work into their objectives, starting with their immediate environment, one person at a time. This concept, when communicated clearly, seems to inspire action, encourage collaboration and teamwork. Win-win is essentially an expansive version of' rubbing one another's backs, with the whole country benefiting, rather than just a few on top.—Farah Maceda, fmaceda@learntech.com

Ship all Filipinos abroad to learn to be positive

I was struck by your words that we "simply don't and can't trust anyone." I've been living and working in Australia for the past 10 years. The first thing that struck me about this nation, its political leaders, government agencies and my workplace is its very trusting nature, philosophy and environment.

For a while I thought these people are either naive or plain idiots to the real world. I would even mockingly laugh at them. Yet in moments of self-assessment and evaluation, I ask myself the question, "Why do I always mistrust people and question their motivations?" I guess it is a cultural baggage that we Filipinos bring with us wherever we go.

Given the new environment I live and work in, I now realize why western countries are more politically and economically stable and continue to grow and develop, never taking a step backward. Little by little, as I began to shed off this attitude of mistrust, I realized I began to feel better as a person, with my motivation, productivity level and creativity on the increase. Everything follows thereafter, with positive outcomes. In a sense I contribute positively to society and, in turn, society returns this positive contribution by way of providing a better and stable environment. It really cuts both ways.

My hope is for every Filipino to have the chance as I had to shed off this negative outlook and attitude in life. I dream someday the Philippine nation—its sovereignty and its land—can be frozen or preserved in time, while each Filipino is shipped out to some foreign land to give them a chance to cast out this bloody negating attitude. To return after this healing process to restart a better nation of hope and positivity.

As an outsider looking in, I feel the Philippines is seemingly in an endless roller-coaster ride, with its ups and downs, going around in circles and getting nowhere.

The greatest paradox about the Philippines is its extremely high level of spirituality compared to the western world where Christianity and spirituality are dying. Yet its level of mistrust and negativity is just as high as its spirituality.

Perhaps, it does take a genius to figure this one out.—vlegarda@vtown.com.au

Crab mentality of Filipinos

I love your article about Estrada being what every Filipino unconsciously wants to be. I agree there are a great many cynical people who knew what Estrada is and really don't care.

His supporters from D and E class don't believe he is corrupt. A drinker, womanizer and school dropout he has admitted to, and many Filipino males respect that. But corrupt? From what I've seen and heard from many of my family members back home who support him, they don't think he's guilty.

I've also seen and experienced that "crab mentality" you spoke of. It's just like that Russian proverb about a man whose neighbor got a new goat. Instead of working to buy a goat of his own, he intended to kill his neighbor's goat to bring him down to his level.

Paradoxically, this Filipino attitude seems to exist more for other Filipinos who are connected to us in some manner (as neighbor, teammate, officemate, etc.), but we share in the glory of Filipinos who are strangers to us. For instance, Dan Inosanto is a Filipino-American who has achieved great renown as a martial arts expert. Tell a Filipino about this and they find pride in a fellow Filipino who has done well. Tell another Filipino martial artist and they'll find reason to resent Inosanto's success and fame.—Roland Isla, Ontario, Canada

Can't take the Philippines out of the Pinoy

I left the Philippines in 1968 to emigrate to America. Back then I was a young lawyer just out of law school, full of hopes and ideals.

I came from sugarlandia where, if you want to be a public servant, you have to have money or have a rich family name. I migrated out of frustration and disappointment.

I found my place in the sun in this new country where I learned a new way of life. All through those years I kept track of the political developments in the Philippines and keep on wishing one day I will come back. I have made several trips since then, volunteered in the Jimmy Carter's Habitat Program in Cavite.

Then I found out that Filipinos who are born and educated in the Philippines such as doctors, engineers, accountants, architects, real estate brokers or lawyers who became citizens of another country cannot practice in the Philippines.

It was a surprise to me as I look forward to going back home to practice pro bono in my twilight years. If you are an American professional basketball player or an entertainer, you can practice your profession in the Philippines. These are not included in the negative list.

I admire you for being brutal with the truth even when it is ugly and painful, too. It's like looking at ourselves in the mirror.

As a Filipino-American, I will always watch with interest the future of that country, for you can take a Pinoy out of the Philippines but you cannot take the Philippines out of a Pinoy.—ajb1224 @pop.gateway.net

Limit voting right to qualified middle class

How do we break the vicious cycle that you so well described in your article?

The answer is in democracy, but not the one we have nor the one the Americans have been preaching since the Cold War. What the Americans have been preaching and what we have bought hook, line and sinker is a myth. That myth is that democracy which is the rule of the people.

Actually, democracy is, and always has been, the rule of the middle class. In all the successful countries where democracy has worked, the middle class has become "the people."

But democracy did not start that way. Even in America, the mother of all democracies, the original voters were limited mostly to white, land-owning males. In other words, the middle class at the time. Blacks, who were poor in America, and even women most of whom were not educated, were excluded from the voting process.

What can be done to make democracy in the Philippines work, as shown by all practical history? Limit the democratic exercise to the middle class, either to those who pay taxes or to those who pass a certain competency test (NSAT or something equivalent).

Only when the middle class runs this country can this vicious cycle be really broken.—Renan C. Paglin, rpaglin@compuserve.com

* * *

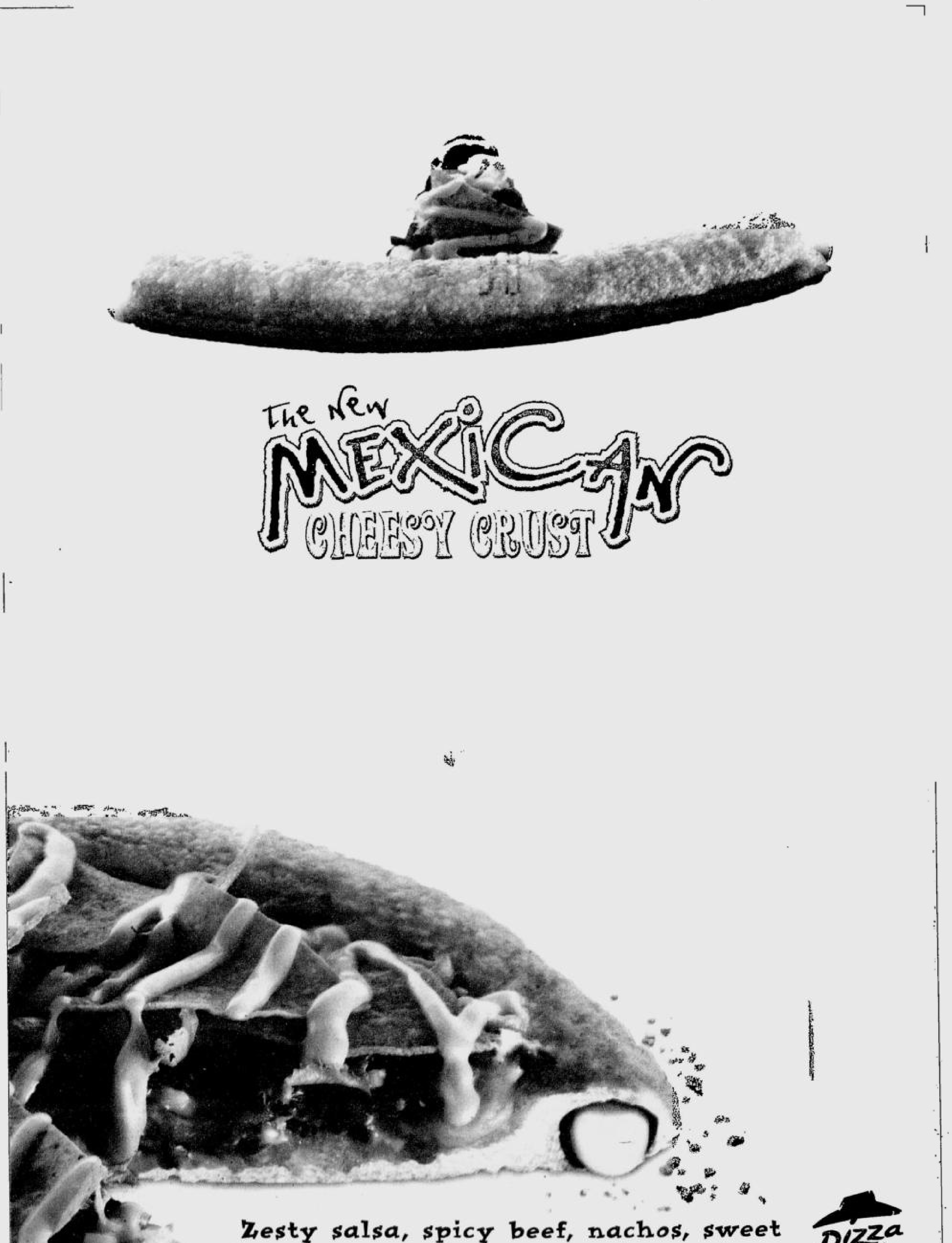
As I was about to send this week's column, I received the reaction from one of this country's most respected business leaders, Don Enrique Zobel. Because he mailed the letter by post rather than via the Internet, I received it too late for his invitation to join his radio discussion. Here's what Zobel said:

"I read your column on May 22 with great interest and found it one of the most insightful pieces I have ever read. I am sure many of your readers felt the same way though many, too, must have cringed at the thought that Erap, as you put it, represents all of us! We need more clear thinking like yours and I look forward to reading your future pieces.

"For your information, I and three friends of mine (Luis Taruc, Manuel Quezon III and JB Baylon) are coming together as citizens who want to do something but are looking for a venue to do something to help our country. In fact, we are taping a freewheeling discussion of our thoughts, which will be aired on May 26 over radio station dwWW 774 kHz on the AM band, beginning at 11:30 a.m.

"I would like to invite you to listen in and hopefully share your thoughts with us, too. While the program on Saturday won't be live, you could, of course, send us thoughts by mail, e-mail (jbaylon@apac.ko.com) or fax me directly at my residence."

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com. Visit www.angelfire.com/journal/licauco for more details. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.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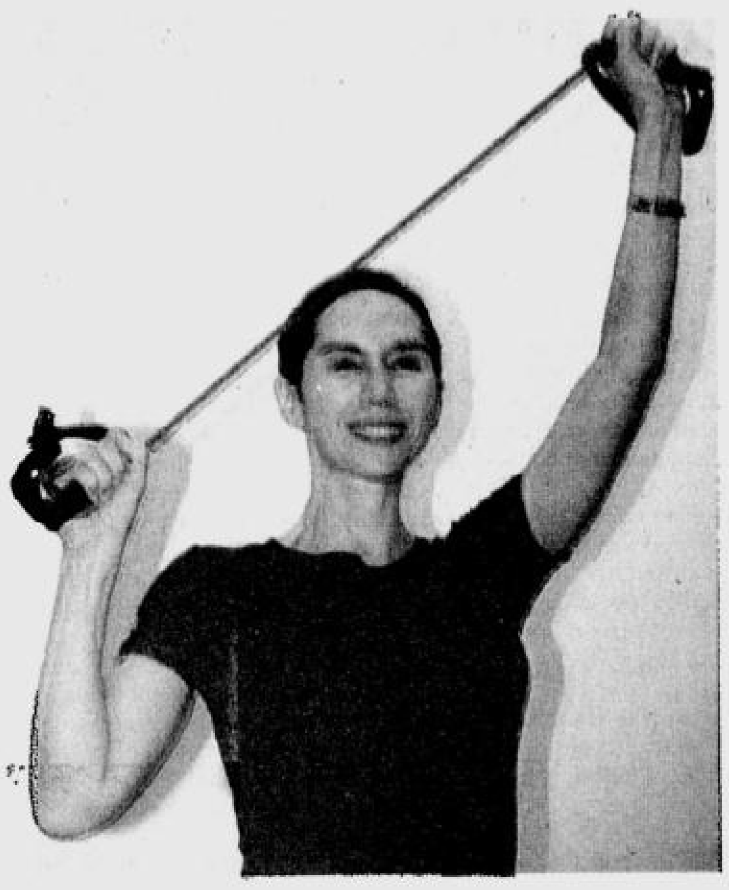
EXERCISE OF THE WEEK



Pull-down with rubber band

TONES the *latissimus dorsi* or sides of the upper back.

Equipment:

Three- to 5-ft-long rubber bands that you can purchase at sporting good stores. You can make your own by buying rubber bands used for slingshots at a hardware store or market. You can also use surgical tubing, which you can buy at a drugstore. If you need to shorten the band for more tension, make sure to loop it loosely around your hand. Always check your rubber band for tears before using it. As you get stronger, you can use two rubber bands instead of one.

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with legs shoulder width apart and knees slightly bent.
2. Raise both arms overhead. Hold one arm stationary while you pull down with the other arm.
3. Slowly return to starting position.

Performance tips:

1. Start the downward pulling movement by pretending that you are squeezing a small ball in between your armpit and the side of your upper body.
2. Pull your elbow downward and not sideways.
3. Keep the movement in front of the body. Do not try to pull the rubber band behind your neck.

Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions on each side. Rest. Do one or two more sets if you want to.

You only get good at what you train for

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

Specificity is a great equalizer. It makes you respect other exercise forms different from yours and realize there's no perfect exercise

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

A CLIENT who has been doing aerobics and weights for a year and a half told me that she recently went swimming with some friends. She was surprised to find that she was breathless and tired after just a few laps. Her friends were teasing her because she used to be a "swimmer." She wanted to know why her body felt this way when she was so religious with her gym program. Did this mean that all her exercise in the gym was useless?

Specificity principle

I assured my client that her gym and aerobics workouts were not useless. She had improved her stamina, endurance, strength, flexibility and body composition. It's just that the fitness improvements she had achieved from her workouts did not instantly translate to swimming because of the principle of specificity. This basic fitness principle states that you only get good at what you train for. For example, doing squats in a gym make your legs stronger so you can easily get out of a chair, literally squat over a dirty public toilet without falling on your face, climb stairs, etc. In other words, land-based activities which are similar to the movements and muscle pattern requirements of a squat.

Swimming uses muscles in a totally different way from the way they are used on land because of the water environment. That's why my client felt tired right away. It's not that she isn't fit; she just hasn't been specifically training for swimming. If she were to stop her treadmill and aerobic class workouts and replace them with swimming sessions, her body would adapt and she would eventually be able to swim for 30-60 minutes without feeling tired. However, after six months of this swimming program, she will discover that she is no longer as "fit" for aerobics as she used to be.

There is no escaping the principle of specificity because that's how the body works. If you are a marathon runner, you need to run long distances to get good at your sport. Cycling just won't do it even though both activities require aerobic endurance and use the muscles of the lower body.

Cross-training

Serious athletes do not usually spend a lot of time cross-training in other sports because they know that it detracts from the results they are trying to achieve. However, if you are only a recreational athlete, cross-training is a way to avoid boredom and injury (from overusing the same muscles the same way).

The client who asked the question about swimming can become fit for both swimming and aerobics classes by cross-training between both activities. There are several ways she could do this. By alternating swimming weeks with aerobic class weeks or by alternating days within the same week. But she has to understand that she will achieve only an average level of fitness for both activities. There is nothing wrong with this since all she wants is to be healthy, control her weight, and be fit enough to live the lifestyle of a wife, mother and career woman. But if she wants to join swimming competitions, then cross-training would go against the specificity principle.

Great equalizer

I think of the principle of specificity as the great equalizer. It keeps you from being proud and thinking that you are the fittest person around. Even if you can easily last through the meanest kickboxing class in town, you will still feel like a complete fool when you try rock climbing. Seasoned runners will find themselves in knots when they try yoga and advanced yoga practitioners will be breathless when they try running. This makes you respect and admire forms of exercise that are different from yours. It also makes you realize that there is no perfect exercise.

A few months ago in San Francisco, I attended a matwork Pilates class. I was very familiar with most of the exercises because I have been teaching Pilates for the last three years. However, this was the first time I was doing the exercises while lying down on a 3-ft-long, 6-inch diameter hard foam "log."

The teacher laughed when she saw the look on my face as I attempted to do the roll-up (an exercise where you roll up from a lying position to a sitting position and vice versa). The look on my face was one of sheer surprise because I could not, for the life of me, roll up the blasted thing. The teacher told me she couldn't do it either the first few times she tried it. If I had stayed long enough in the US to do the class for a couple of weeks, I would have been rolling up and down that foam log as easily as the rest of my classmates because my muscles would have eventually adapted to that specific movement. But at that moment, I had to swallow my pride (always a good thing to do because a big ego is one of the causes of exercise injury) and just roll up halfway.

Next week: More fitness principles

The Association of Fitness Professionals will hold a seminar on June 23 at Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman, QC. Sessions for fitness enthusiasts are Exercise Guidelines and Workout for the Elderly. Sessions for aerobic instructors are Vertical Limit Step, Pump, Hip Hop and Dance Aerobics. Sessions for gym instructors are Exercise Guidelines for Osteoporosis, Marathon Training, Stretching for Tight People and Strength Training for Women. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

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Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

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FAQs (frequently asked questions)

What are the requirements to undergo an Annual Physical Examination (APE)? What other procedures does the Head Office Clinic provide?

- Your stool and urine samples are the basic requirements for an APE. The Head Office Clinic, which provide APE services, is open from 7:00AM – 7:00PM. It is advisable to submit the samples within an hour from collection for better results.
- The Head Office Clinic can readily provide x-ray/ultrasound procedures, pap smear, ECG, basic laboratory procedures, dental services and some minor surgeries.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Jesus Lim was appointed as MEDICard Coordinator in Cebu Doctors Hospital and Chong Hua Hospital ever since its accreditation as MEDICard's provider in 1990. After earning a degree in Medicine, he chose Family Medicine as his line of specialty. Many years of practice earned him the title of 'Most Outstanding Chapter President' by the Philippine Association of Family Physician in 1986. He is married to Dr. Paz Lugod-Lim who is currently a chairman faculty of the Cebu Institute of Medicine. They have been blessed with 4 children, three of them also doctors. For consultations, you can visit him at Cebu Doctors Hospital, Mondays to Thursdays from 3 – 5 PM and at the Chong Hua Hospital, Mondays to Satudays from 10:30 AM to 12 Noon.

Dr. Erwin Alcazaren is one of MEDICard's accredited doctors in Medical City General Hospital and has been with MEDICard's Service Team for the past eight years. He finished his degree in Medicine at the University of the Philippines and later decided to specialize in Surgery. Doc Erwin is a favorite of MEDICard clients because aside from being an expert in his craft, he has great humor and charm. When he is not so busy with his patients, he takes some time off to play golf. For consultations you can visit him at Rm. 153 of the Medico Bldg. (beside Medical City) every M-W-F 10AM-12NN from 4:30 – 6 PM.

The pretty face you see in the current TV commercial of NIDO milk belongs to **Dr. Rosemarie Jean Poblete.** Dr. Poblete is one of MEDICard's accredited pediatricians based at St. Luke's Medical Center. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and later on decided to take Pediatrics as her chosen field of specialty. She spends her free time with her four kids and she also likes to shop. If you want to avail of her services, you can visit her from Mondays to Saturdays 10 AM - 1 PM.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at the 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399 and look for Ms. Joy Mendiola. **TEXT MEDICard for your queries:** 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please do not forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. ***Log on to www.medicardphils.com***

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ISO 9002

Badminton open invites pros and amateurs

BADMINTON isn't always the word that comes out of people's mouth when asked about their favorite sport. In fact only a few knows that the shuttlecock, the "ball" used in the sport, has 16 feathers, all structured for a swift flight and gliding, and that the sport actually originated from India. Some of us may have played it once or twice in our lives, with friends or in PE classes, but only a few dared to take it up as a hobby and enjoy its immense physical and mental benefits.

With this in mind, JVC and IMG have instituted another milestone in the history of badminton with the upcoming JVC Open Badminton Championship, with a press conference held recently at the Valle Verde Country Club, with the hope of enticing more Filipinos to compete in the event and eventually become an enthusiast to represent the country in international competitions.

Hosted by Anthony Suntay, distinguished personalities graced the event, with the likes of the former first lady and Philippine Badminton Association president Amelita Ramos, executive vice president Gen. Edgar B. Aglipay, Philippine Sports Commission chair Carlos Tuazon and commissioners Richard Garcia and Amparo "Weena" Lim, Philippine Olympic Sports president Celso Dayrit, entertainment personalities Isabel Granada, Monsour del Rosario and Philip Lazaro, and National Badminton coach Nelson Asuncion. JVC Phils. president/CEO Tashinori Yokokawa, general manager Kazue Salud and officials, as well as IMG director Princess Galura, James White and events senior manager Maya Hidajet were also at the event.

It was also attended by people from both print and TV media who could not resist joining the Q&A, where five lucky participants won badminton rackets just by answering simple questions about the sport. At the same time, three winners were drawn in the raffle draw with prizes such as JVC MXD-701T component, JVC AVS 21 color TV and VHS player.

The JVC Open Badminton Championship is open to all young, elite and veteran players. The qualifying round and veteran competition will be on June 11-13 at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex while the finals will be on June 14-17 at the Glorietta Activity Center. A prize money of P128,000 and P54,000 await the winners in the elite and young competitions, respectively. Shoppers are invited to join the clinics to be held at the mall.

Call IMG at 751-6751/6752.

JVC president/CEO Tashinori Yokokawa and Philippine Badminton Association EVP Gen. Edgardo Aglipay

IMG Manila director Princess Galura, JVC general manager Kaz Salud and IMG senior event manager Maya Hidajet

ANTHONY Suntay

A wellness program for inmates

(From page C1)

cells. Picaf athlete volunteers will train them, and they in turn will train their fellow inmates later. There will be bimonthly follow-ups and a monthly assessment of the program.

Whiff of degradation

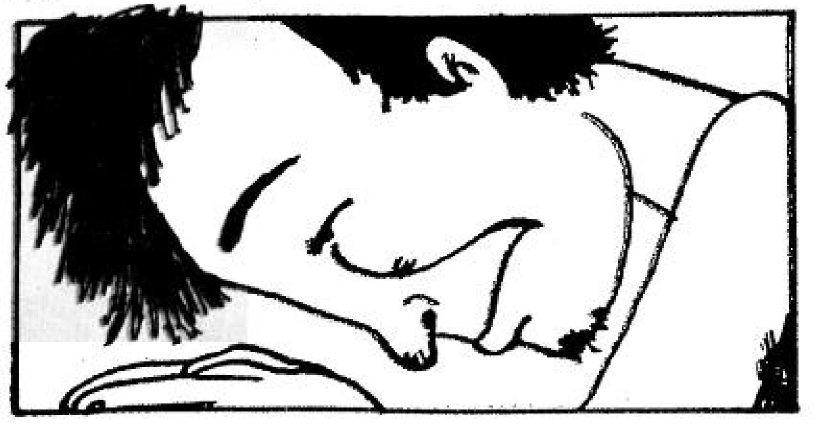
A tour of the Parañaque City Jail, guided by its warden Sen. Insp. Delvic Oreiro, revealed that claustrophobia was not its worst feature.

There is the daily food allowance of P30 per inmate, or P10 worth of—you call that a square meal? Also, water is scarce—how can they do their daily ablution then? And there's the total lack of sunlight and even a semblance of ventilation.

Electric fans are whirling overhead, on the walls, on the floor, but it is stale air they breathe. Jail management has done away with the windows with iron bars that would have allowed a breeze to circulate through and shafts of sunlight to enter, because some inmates would secretly break the bars and escape.

As it is, the place is suffocating with warm air that has been used or contaminated. A few meters away from the building, one can already catch a whiff of human degradation. At the entrance, the cells already reek of the compounded odors of perspiration, cigarette smoke, spoiled food, whatever. By the time the visitor is inside, walking as if in a trance through that fetid air, he is already *hilung-hilo* and ready to faint.

One inmate says the lack of sunlight has caused his skin to swell in spots, where mites lay eggs and breed. Lack of exercise has robbed him of his muscles (he used to play basketball in college). Lack of proper nutrition and sanitation makes him more vulnerable to various diseases and ailments. Put these together and you have a major epidemic in the offing. If one gets a cold here everybody catches it.



States of depression

Top officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government, under which the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology is, should take a peek and redefine their idea of human decency. The Commission on Human Rights should go and observe and tell us who are the criminals, who the victims.

Says the Caritas paper: "It is ironic to note that the very institution tasked with restoring the human dignity and moral consciences of prisoners is the very same entity that further strips them of such. As a result of the dehumanizing conditions to which they are subjected, many detainees leave the prison environment more hardened than when they first entered.

"It is disheartening to observe that the maintenance of local jails is at the lowest rung of the national government's ladder of priorities. Most jails and prisons share common characteristics: Overly congested and unkempt cells, insufficient beds, deficient lighting and ventilation. Each inmate's daily food allowance does not satisfy even a fraction of his prescribed needs. Most distressing is the fact that some jails are devoid of such bare necessities as comfort rooms.

"Without even the minimum facilities for health, sanitation and recreation, many inmates fall ill and lapse into serious states of depression. Moreover, the lack of in-depth programs for values education and vocational training further contributes to the deterioration of the inmate's already warped sense of values."

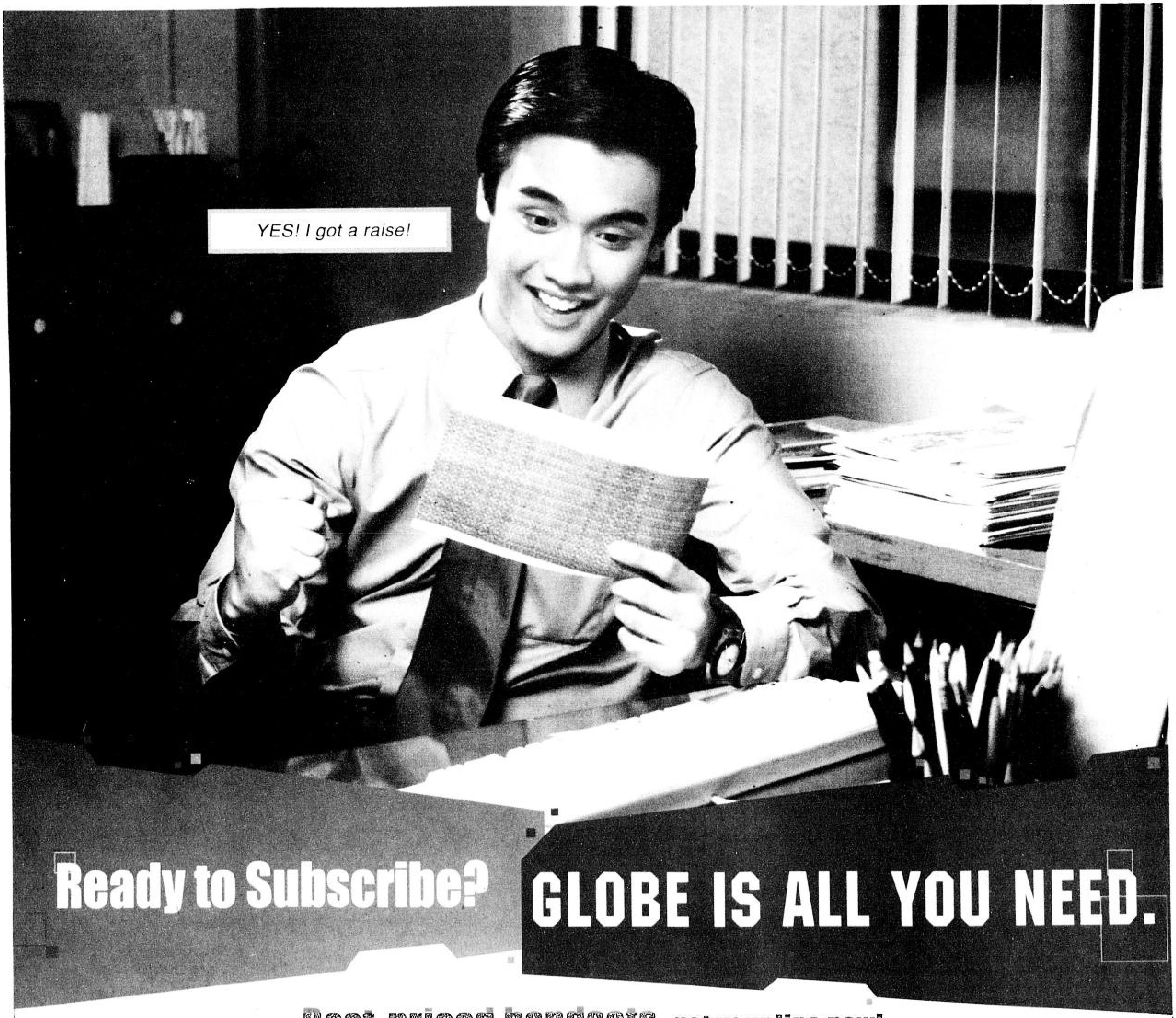
Good begets good

The wellness program, therefore, is long overdue and a most welcome project. The chain reaction after Fansler got it going has been terrific. Such a big project and dispatched with such speed!

An annex is now being finished on the roof deck of the Parañaque City Jail. This will be the solution to what Fansler had at first thought was an impossible cause. The roof deck will serve as the sunning area of the inmates and the venue for their wellness program. Everybody is excited.

"If it works in Parañaque," Carrion said, "then eventually we can do the same program for the other jails in Metro Manila, until we can go provincial."

And that, as everybody knows, is how a good work starts.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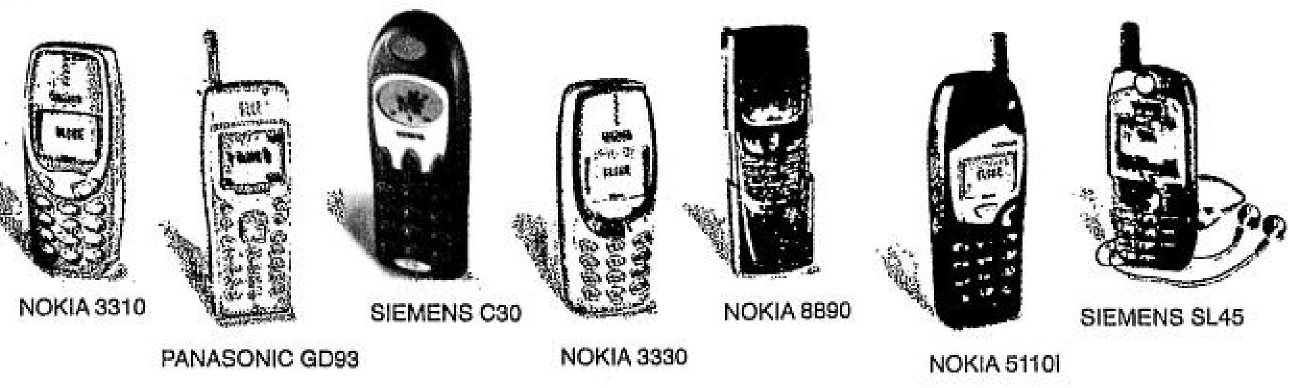

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Nokia 3330	7,500	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500
Nokia 3310	5,000	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000
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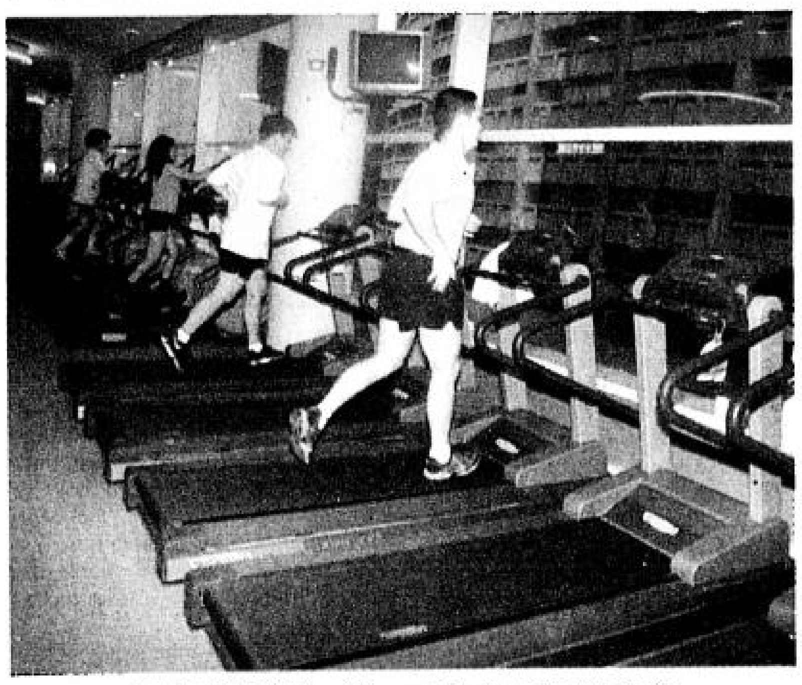

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BY CATHY BABAO GUBALLA
PHOTOS BY BETOY JOHNSON

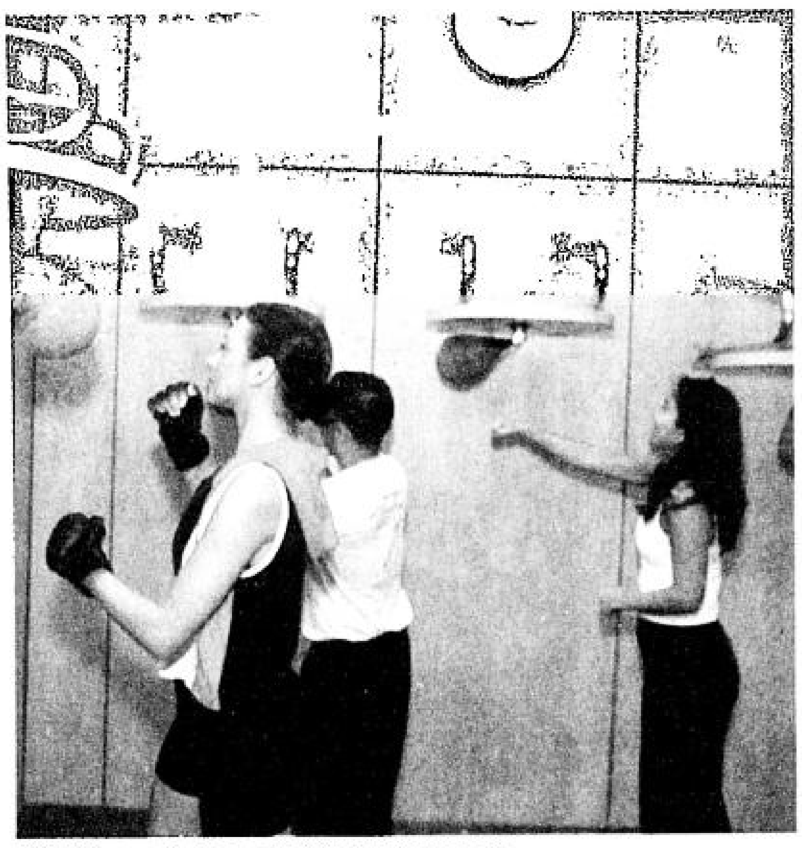
WELLNESS has become a buzzword for the 21st cen-tury, encompassing the areas of food, spirituality, physical and mental health of which exercise is an essential part. Be it a walk around the block, an hour spent on the treadmill, lifting weights, swimming or joining some form of aerobic workout, doctors and fitness buffs advocate at least a regimen of 30-45 minutes, three times a week exercise routine. Gym enthusiasts, more so those residing or working within the Makati business district, will be thrilled to know that one of the biggest health clubs in Asia has just opened its doors in the city.

The Spa at RCBC Plaza, the 11th outlet of The Spa Health Club group in Asia, aims to provide a complete lifestyle solution while advocating a dictum of wellness management through regular exercise, a balanced diet, sensible lifestyle and relaxation.

Top-of-the-line

Once you've entered The Spa, it's like stepping into the mecca of gyms in Metro Manila. Outfitted with Technogym's Selection Line, Vikki Aquino, Spa manager, says, "Technogym is the Ferrari of fitness machines because of its ergonomic and functional design." There is a whole gamut of machines that cater to every body part—hip adduction, leg press, leg curl, leg extension, glute, multihip machines for the lower body; lateral machines and hyperextension for the upper back; flyes, press and bench press for the chest; an easy press station, smith machine, cable machines, cable crossover, abdominal bench and abdominal crunches. And that's only the body strengthening machines! The club takes pride in its range of over 32 cardiovascular machines from treadmills (there are eight!) to cross trainers (seven), steppers, rowers, recumbent bikes and upright bikes. All machines are of the Technogym line and equipped with Cardio Theater. A video/audio system enables you to have your own headphone and tune in to over 12 channels at any given time without disturbing other people (or distracting them). Thus, the investment banker hooked to CNN won't be bothered by a mother of three viewing HBO or her teener watching MTV.

The gym area also has facilities for boxing and martial arts, fully equipped with speed balls and punching bags. Its free weights area at the far corner of the room has weights ranging from 3-100 pounds.



PUNCH your blues away at the boxing corner.

Host of classes

If exercising in the gym isn't your thing, the Spa also offers a wide selection of group exercise classes. "We are convinced that a renewed level of fitness really helps in overcoming moments of fatigue and stress, and this will provide you the energy and stamina to face any situation in the workplace or home," Aquino further adds. "We have programs, facilities, services and treatments that will look after the body-mind spirit connection. So apart from the traditional weight-gain and weight-loss programs, we also offer a variety of classes here."

The aerobics floor at the Spa is destined to be double sprung, thus, protecting one from potential joint injuries and at the same time absorbing shock for high-impact exercises. Among the classes offered are step, hi-low aerobics, power-boxing (taught by Vanessa Garcia), urban cycling (or more popularly known as spinning), an innovative indoor cycling program designed to boost cardiovascular and strength endurance using state-of-the-art bikes that Aquino emphasizes "are guaranteed to make you sweat." This class fully develops the dynamics of a group workout through the creative rhythm of music, mind, movement and motivation.

There is also a New Age stretch class which strengthens and lengthens the entire body through graceful, flowing movements, employing both yoga and Pilates. Karate classes are also offered twice a week.

All instructors are highly trained and certified by either the American Council on Exercise Standards or the Aerobics and Fitness Association of America. "Everyone here have licenses for CPR and first aid from the Philippine National Red Cross," Vikki says.

Spanking facilities, warm staff

Opening its doors on the last week of May, the Spa is huge, clean, well-lighted and well-appointed. Luxurious locker rooms have pristine clean saunas and steam rooms. Members enjoy towel service, a full range of toiletries, vanity amenities, eucalyptus saunas, anti-oxidant lemon water and complimentary exercise kits for each workout so you don't have to bring a gym bag.

Nestled also within The Spa fitness club is The Spa Clinique where one can find a rich variety of massage, facial and body treatments guaranteed to make you feel better before stepping back into the city. Treatments are comparable to those given in the Banyan Tree or Oriental in Bangkok.

The Spa also offers custom-made packages for brides and debutantes in preparation for their big day. Weight-loss programs or skin-care programs can be tailor-made depending on the requirements. Also on the fourth floor of The Spa is the jacuzzi and the country's only indoor heated lap pool, which is ideal for aqua aerobics and water shiatsu sessions.

With such facilities, it's no wonder that many of Makati's movers and shakers have been spotted here before heading off to work. It's quite obvious that these men and women have realized the importance of making wellness an essential part of their lives, too.

The Spa at RCBC Plaza is open daily from 6 a.m.-10 p.m. Call 845-3480.

E-mail the author at cbguballa@inquirer. com.ph

Fragrant bubbles for brides

BY ROWENA C. BURGOS

PLANNING a wedding is stressful, and that's putting it mildly. You're dealing with constant tension from the moment the big-day talk begins. While this physiological response may give you the energy to complete all the preparations, it also taxes your immune system and is bad for your skin and sex drive.

If you're a stress case and you've already tried sleeping eight hours every night, upping your exercise routine and eating the right foods with no relief, stay calm. The South Spa has a basic game plan, with beautifying and relaxing results.

Gear up for the red-hot rendezvous by cleansing your body in luxurious style—heady fragrances and rich, foamy textures will get you in the mood for a night of tactile treats.

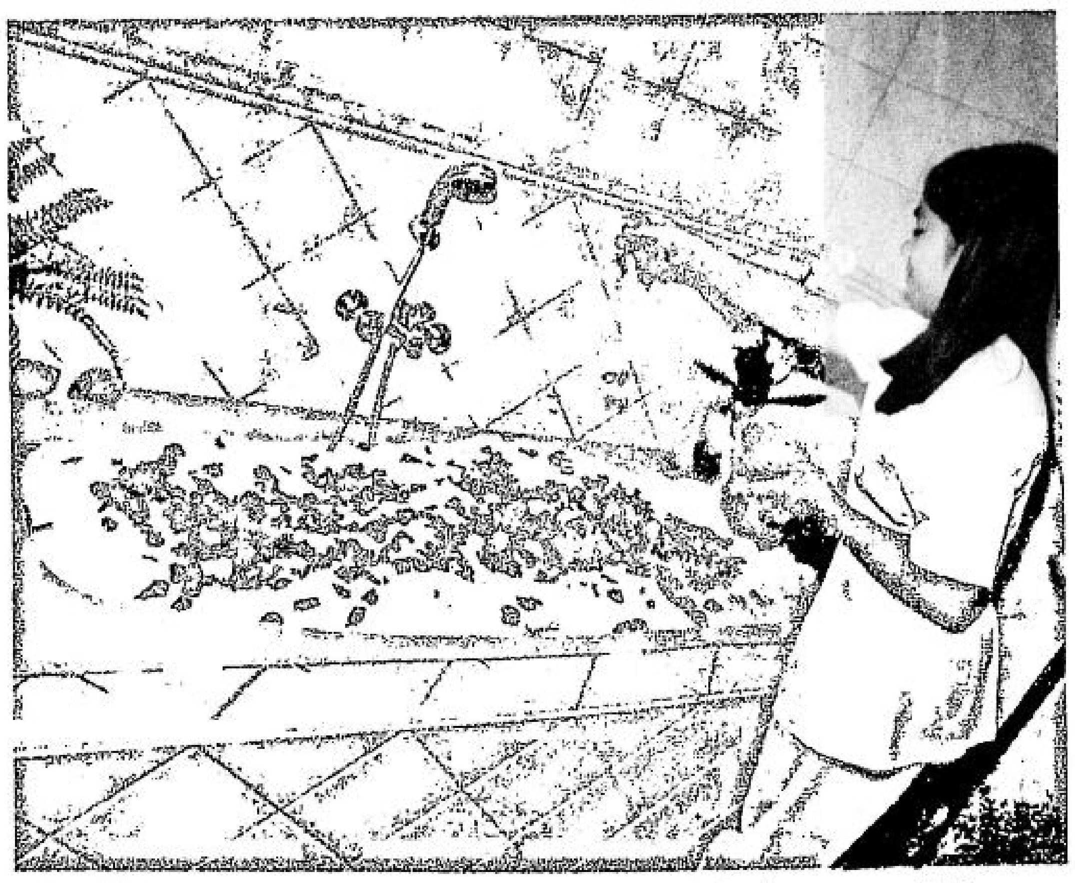
For would-be brides, head therapist Elvie Reyes recommends the Javanese Royal Bath. A traditional wedding day preparation treatment from Java, Indonesia, it uses a curry-based powder called lulur, an exfoliant that helps remove dead skin cells.

Reyes, who has been in the spa service for 22 years now, says it's best to try this treatment a week before the wedding, 45 minutes a day. "The treatment cleanses one's body and helps rid odors. You will enjoy this bubble bath of oil, milk and flowers." Clients should make an appointment because the roses to be used in the treatment should be fresh.

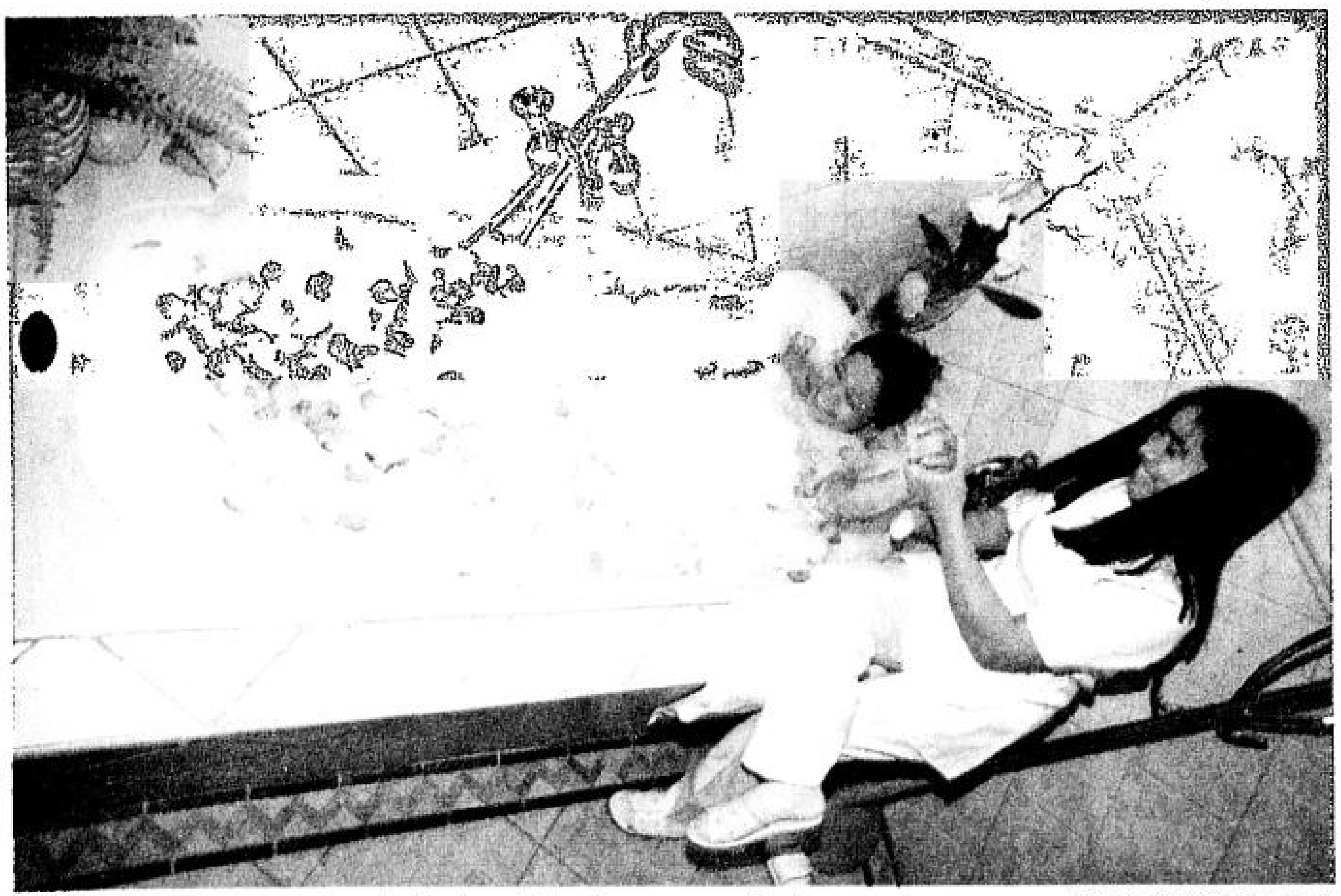
No preparation is complete without smothering the body with the Dead Sea Mud, a dirty delight that purifies, detoxifies and tightens the pores. According to Reyes, "This treatment may be smelly but it's rich in iodine, bromine, fluoride and potassium" and perhaps the closest we can get to sharing earth's life.

There's also the Body Seaweed Treatment that cleanses the body, removes impurities and rejuvenates dead skin using seaweed scrub. The second skin that soon emerges—all tingling and revitalized—makes you wonder if you can ever go back to regular soap-and-water again.

Take a break from the stress of nuptial planning and lose yourself in a luxurious and fragrant foam, plus a head-to-toe massage



AN ATTENDANT puts rose petals in a bathtub as preparation for the Javanese royal bath.



PAMPER yourself a week before the big day with the Javanese royal bath treatment.

PHOTOS BY RANDY HORMILLOSA

De-stressing techniques

Stress is that feeling you get when your mom calls 16 times in an hour to talk about the wedding invitation, or when you find out that five turquoise bridesmaids' dresses have arrived, only you ordered seven—in sky blue. Your heart races, your muscles tense and your blood pressure climbs.

The back, shoulders and neck tend to have the lion's share of knots, but any full-bodied massage will make you feel as though every last atom of your physique will dissolve, right down to the fingernails.

The South Spa has choices for you. The Salt Glow is an invigorating massage using sea salt and aromatherapy oils. This bestseller, revitalizes the body and leaves skin soft and smooth.

Shiatsu is a Japanese type of massage using finger pressure where the focus is on the nerves, muscles and bones.

Swedish Massage relieves pain and improves blood circulation using palm pressure and kneading.

Reflexology focuses on pressing the nerve points that correspond to the different parts of the body.

Foot therapy starts with a refreshing foot bath and a pumice scrub to remove dry and dead skin. This is followed by a therapeutic massage to relax the body and capped with an application of peppermint foot lotion.

Scalp massage uses various oils to soothe and stimulate the scalp and hair. Facial Massage, on the other hand, relaxes facial muscles and enhances good blood circulation. A full Facial Massage with Mud Pack deeply cleanses skin, regenerates tissues and smoothes wrinkles.

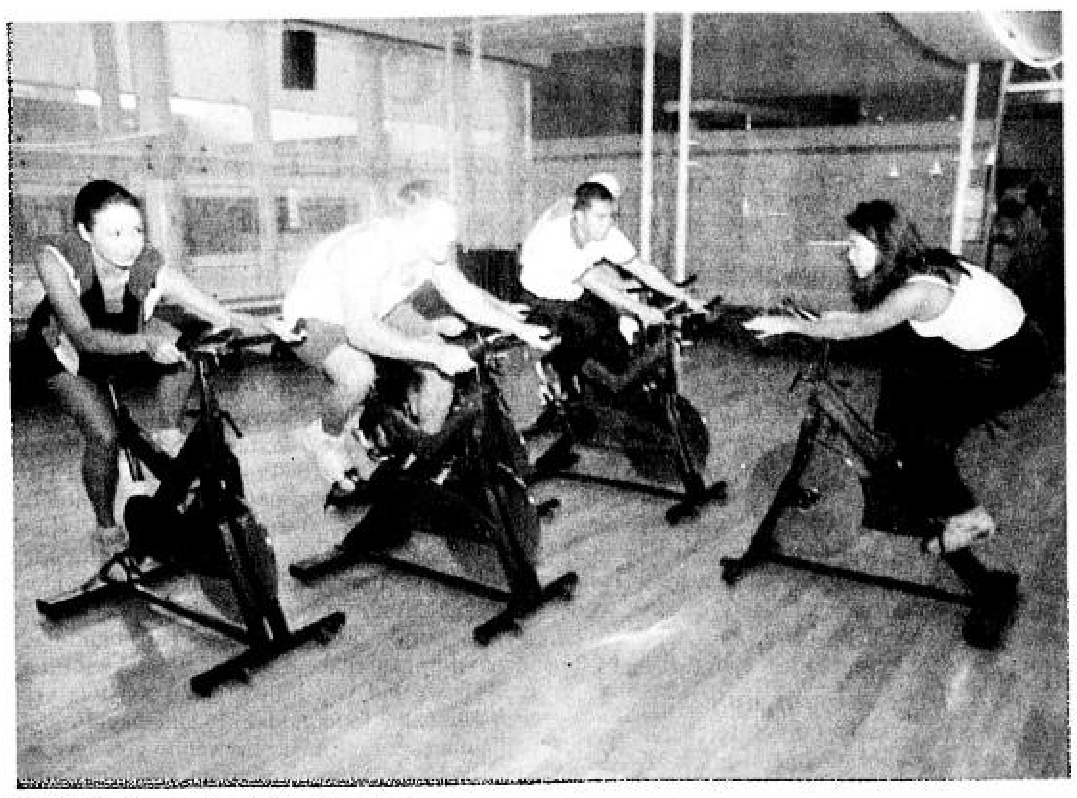
A Twin Massage is a treatment given by two different spa experts with two different kinds of therapy in one.

Aside from these, The South Spa also proffers packages of Aromatherapy, Footloose, Face and Skin Beautifier, All-Together Wellness and Lymphatic Massage Treatment that help return the body to wholeness.

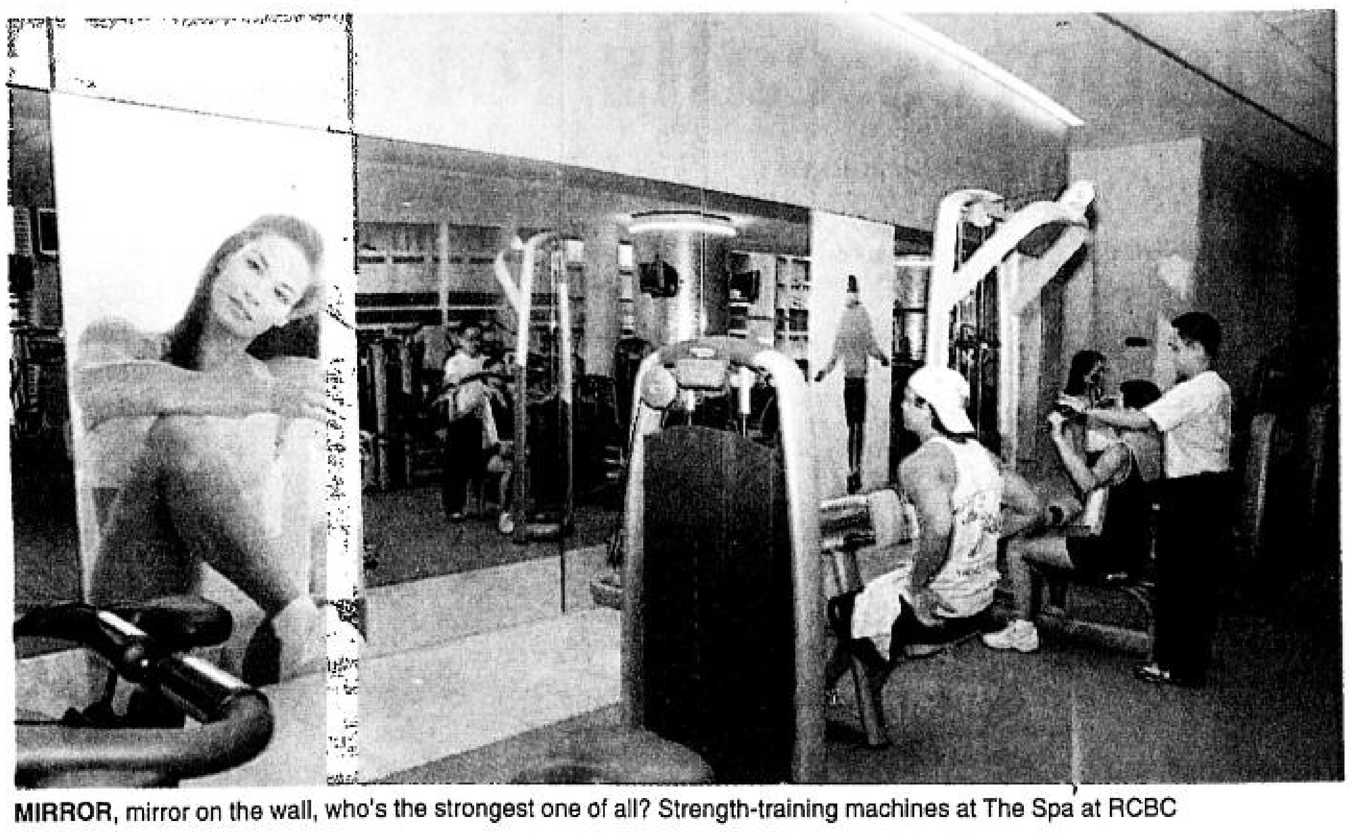
Preparing for such a special occasion, Reyes says, means giving your entire body the royal treatment. A simple soap-and-a-shower routine will not do. So leave no skin-perfecting or de-stressing measure overlooked.

Located at G/F Kingswood Tower, Pasong Tamo corner Vito Cruz extension, Makati City, The South Spa (895-4029/4420/4782) offers massage and body treatments daily from 12-10:30 p.m. to alleviate stress and help you look your wedding day best.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



VIKKI Aquino leads a Spinning class.



MIRROR, mirror on the wall, who's the strongest one of all? Strength-training machines at The Spa at RCBC

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Diabetes calls for a change in lifestyle

> According to Dr. Abe Gibeily, the total diabetic population of the United States equals the diabetic population of the Philippines

By Vangie Baga-Reyes

GOOD news to diabetics! There's a new (old) way to fight—maybe even eliminate—this lifelong disease: Change your lifestyle!

"Diabetes begins with a bad lifestyle," swears American doctor Abe Gibeily. "Eating junk and processed foods, smoking, drinking, overeating with no exercise are simple ways to get diabetes in no time at all," he says. In the Philippines, the incidence of diabetes is alarmingly growing. About 25 percent of Filipinos today are diabetics.

But, what's more appalling is that, according to Dr. Gibeily, the total diabetic population of the United States equals the diabetic population of the Philippines. "That's truly shocking since the American population is about 275 million while Filipinos are only 80 million," notes Dr. Gibeily, who was recently in Manila to conduct a lecture-seminar on diabetes and body fats.

Diabetes is considered a lifestyle disease and a nutritional problem. People who don't exercise and eat plenty of unhealthy food are prone to diabetes. Obese people, for instance, are already considered diabetics. "Basically, we become diabetics when our blood sugar (digested food) stays in our blood stream needlessly, instead of arriving at our cells and tissues to generate energy," says Dr. Gibeily.

DR. Abe Gibeily: "Diabetes is a lifestyle problem." ROGER CARPIO

Diet and exercise

The complications caused by diabetes are worse than the symptoms. Among possible complications are eye disorders (cataracts and glaucoma), kidney disorder, hypertension, heart disease, skin disease, gangrene, among other illnesses.

Often, diabetics are required to go on a diet of less sweets and less carbohydrate-intake. But diet without exercise is useless. Exercising every day or at least twice a week is enough to sustain and energize the body.

However, Dr. Gibeily notes that the diet and exercise combination does not totally treat diabetics. He insinuates there's a missing link in the cure of diabetes. "Even if you go on a diet and exercise to keep you fit, you haven't tackled the most important part of diabetes, which is called insulin," Dr. Gibeily states.

Insulin is the body's master hormone. Its function is to carry digested food (glucose) to living cells. As such, it acts as a "gate" that determines whether food will be used for energy or fat/blood sugar buildup instead. Since insulin controls the vital body functions, it adversely affects a person's overall health if it becomes ineffective, inviting thus the "silent killer" called diabetes.

The missing link

Chromium, a mineral dubbed to be the missing link in the cure of diabetes, is now being recommended to diabetics.

"Chromium is scientifically the solution," says Dr. Gibeily. "When chromium is present in the body, insulin will do its job. Chromium fuels insulin to function. Interestingly, our bodies carry a small amount of chromium but when it is deficient, the effectivity of insulin is diminished, resulting in the inability to tolerate normal amounts of glucose. Chromium works by regulating the blood sugar in the body," he says.

Chromium is naturally available in veggies, shellfish and other foods. However, it is not enough to supply what the body needs. Chromium, taken as food supplement in the form of chromium picolinate, can reduce the insulin level in the blood and reduce weight as well as prevent hypertension and heart disease.

With the chromium picolinate being available in the market under the name BKF food supplement, the need for chromium is sufficiently met. BFK is registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

Dr. Gibeily says chromium picolinate is the first bio-available (easily absorbed by the body) form of chromium that was ever made. It was patented by the US government and distributed exclusively by Health From Earth, where Dr. Gibeily is the Asia country manager. There's also a chromium information bureau, a non-profit organization, in the US to monitor the supply of chromium and to conduct a regular study on chromium.

Dr. Gibeily, however, admits chromium can never eliminate diabetes unless you take it on a daily basis and you follow some sensible yet very attainable food guidelines and exercise.

"No matter how much chromium you have in your body if you don't give up you vices and bad eating habits, there's no way you can have a healthy body." Smoking can kill all the chromium you may have in your body. Too much greasy food and carbohydrates will make your daily intake of chromium ineffective.

"You have to give up something. That's why diabetes is called a lifestyle disease. You can never be diabetic-free unless you change your lifestyle."

Health from Earth Phils will conduct another free lecture-seminar on diabetes on June 16 where it will also sell BFK food supplement for P1,400 per bottle. Attendees who purchase more than 10 bottles will get a free bottle. Call 660-2290.

E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph

Healthy way to get rid of excess fat

By Maria Cristina G. Santos

WHO would not want to indulge in sinfully delicious foods while maintaining a perfect figure? Well, if you think you can't have both, think again.

Over the years, former beauty queen Evangeline Pascual has maintained her to-die-for curves. She is just one of the few fortunate ones who's "enjoying the best of both worlds."

Pascual reveals she has been using Exofat Forte Double-Strength Premium Lipid Absorber, an all-natural over-the-counter weight-reducing medicine, "because it's the healthiest solution in getting rid of excess fat in the diet."

Though the statuesque actress doesn't really need any weight-loss pill, she said she uses it for "weight maintenance" especially now that she's active again in show business. She's cast in a daily soap opera. "My job demands to always look my best. In this business, you really have to invest to look great and stay beautiful. But because of my busy schedule, I hardly have the time to exercise although I go swimming once in a while," she says.

Healthy lifestyle

Along with other well-known personalities from different sectors, Pascual is part of the Exofat Advantage Program, a media campaign of GerMed Pharma Corp., the pharmaceutical firm which developed and introduced Exofat. Such personalities are living testimonials "to the safety and effectiveness of using Exofat as part of a healthy lifestyle."

The campaign also aims to oppose the common notion that over-the-counter medicines are harmful. "On the contrary, Exofat is indeed safe to use, no prescription needed. It's unlike other weight-loss pills, which are classified as prescriptive products. These are regulated by the Bureau of Food and Drugs because of the side effects one will experience in using them," says Wolfgang Roehr, chair of the German-owned Biogenerics Group of Co., of which GerMed is part.

Roehr adds that Exofat, although marketed as a medicine, should not be confused with synthetic drugs that enter the bloodstream and are harmful to the physiological systems or functions in the body. In fact it even helps in proper digestion because it contains oligofructose, a special ingredient that enhances the stomach's good bacteria that maintain a healthy microflora environment within the gastrointestinal tract.

And unlike synthetic diet pills and prescription medications, Exofat liberates weight-conscious people from the embarrassment and discomfort of diarrhea.

"I've tried almost every other anti-fat fad out in the market but not one of these diet pills can be compared to Exofat in terms of safety and effectiveness. No mess experienced from other diet pills that give out harmful effects," says Pascual.

Do it in moderation

Roehr, however, says that although Exofat can help one lose weight, it doesn't mean that one can eat as much as he wants. "Exofat makes one become more conscious of his diet. It changes one's eating habits. You can eat anything you desire without feeling guilty or without depriving yourself,as long as you do it in moderation," he says. "You have to be disciplined—exercise and watch how much fat you take in," he adds.

Another member of the Exofat Advantage team, radio personality Ruth Abao Espinosa, reveals that she has lost around 10 pounds during the first few months of taking in Exofat. But following the advice of Roehr, "I watch my food intake and I go to the gym regularly."

Espinosa, who stands 5'3½" and weighs 120 pounds, is already a mother of four but she still looks like a single young lady. "I'm really vain," Espinosa admits. "When I gain 2-3 pounds, I freak out," she adds. Espinosa says she hadn't experienced any discomfort in using Exofat. On the contrary, she says the weight-reducing pill actually gives a feeling of fullness. "It helps me lose weight gradually without the craving," she says.

TV host Boy Abunda, Dr. Clare Palabyab, radio personality Ruth Abao Espinosa and Biogenerics Group of Co. chair Wolfgang Roehr and wife

ESPINOSA, Palabyab and former beauty queen and actress Evangeline Pascual

Meanwhile, dermatologist Clare Palabyab disclosed that she has lost around 20 pounds over a period of six months of using Exofat. "As a doctor, I am quite conscious in trying out these diet pills. But with Exofat, I am happy to know that there's a healthy product for people who are hesitant to use diet medications," she says.

Dr. Palabyab admits trying other diet pills but "nothing happened. But when I switched to Exofat, people really noticed that I've lost weight."

Aside from feeling thirsty so often, Dr. Palabyab says she hasn't felt any other discomfort. However, Roehr says that "it is important to drink at least eight glasses of water every day, and that is one of the requirements when dieters decide to take Exofat."

"It is generally safe to take. The truth is, it even improved the condition of my skin—making it smoother and healthy-looking, and it helped regulate my cholesterol levels," Dr. Palabyab says. "Even though Exofat does not require prescription, I tell my patients to go and try it. I'm even sending it to my relatives in the US. In fact, my eldest son has lost almost 30 pounds since he discovered Exofat," she adds.

Effectiveness

Studies show that obese and overweight patients using a leading diet medication double their weight once they stop following the prescription. On the other hand, Exofat is especially effective when one incorporates it with a good diet and an active lifestyle.

One can eat well in a restaurant, contrary to what many people think. It just requires basic knowledge and will power to make healthy selections. Hence, The Advantage Program has also come up with 10 tips in order to enjoy dining out without feeling guilty:

1. Have a light breakfast and lunch and have a small snack an hour or two before going. Make a special effort to avoid foods high in fats since your restaurant meal will probably not be particularly lean.
2. Try to select a full-menu restaurant so that a variety of food choices will be available to you. Order à la carte.
3. Before ordering, ask how the food is prepared. Guesswork can result in extra calorie and fat intake. Request substitutions if necessary.
4. If you order a higher fat and calorie entrée, balance it with lower fat/calorie choices. Eat the lowest fat/calorie foods first.
5. Eat only what you order. Do not fill up on tortilla chips, crackers, bread, Chinese noodles or anything else that may land on the table before the main meal.
6. Ask for vegetables and entrées without butter, margarine or oil.
7. Beware of the salad. Watch out for calorie and fat-laden salad dressings and salads containing high-fat ingredients such as bacon, cheese, avocado, cold cuts or olives. Order salad dressing on the side so you can control the amount and make it a nonfat, low-fat or reduced-calorie.
8. Watch portion sizes. If it's more than you should eat, ask for a doggy bag. You can also cut consumption by ordering several appetizers instead of a super-sized main course.
9. Be dessert smart. Wait until you have finished your meal before ordering dessert. Most restaurants have some type of low-calorie, low-fat offering such as fresh fruits.
10. Eat slowly and enjoy your meal, knowing you have not overindulged.

In any case, don't forget to take with you easy-to-carry Exofat Forte strip. Exofat intake depends on how much fat you think you are going to consume in a single meal, but the suggested use is just two tablets at least 15 minutes before each meal and this will help you get rid of the excess fat the healthy way.

Joyce Ramirez, communications director of GerMed says plans for a "mega" Exofat are already in progress. And since Exofat is a tough pill to swallow, they are coming up with syrup and a soft gel. "We are constantly improving our products to satisfy our consumers," she says.

And with the new Exofat Advantage program, consumers will be accommodated with the Exofat call-in center wherein professional nutritionists will not only answer inquiries but also provide fitness and nutrition tips. This will also enable dieters to learn to reduce weight more effectively in conjunction with the daily intake of Exofat Forte and a disciplined lifestyle. Call the Exofat Advantage Team at 638-1691 to -93 or call toll-free at 1-800-1-888-2288 or e-mail exofat@germed.com.ph.

New joints for old

ESTELITA Ruiz at 86 definitely did not yet consider herself over the hill. A mother of four and a grandmother many times over, she was game and gutsy, fun to be with, young at heart and spirited—despite her age.

But Lola Estelita—for all her spunk and positive thinking—felt trapped and depressed at times. She was bound to her wheelchair, a virtual cripple. Both of her knees were afflicted with advanced osteoarthritis. She was constantly in pain.

A disease of the joints that is caused by the degeneration of the cartilage that acts as the cushion and shock absorber between the bones of the joints, osteoarthritis is progressive and marked by worsening pain. It doesn't kill, but it sure can cripple. In some patients, the awful pain, the limping and joint dysfunction may no longer respond to mediation. This is when a more radical and dramatic solution is recommended by doctors.

When the pain and discomfort became really unbearable for Lola Estelita, they went to see their family doctor, who recommended a new procedure that he said would dramatically change Lola's life.

Advanced procedure

The procedure is replacement surgery, an advanced medical procedure that replaces damaged bones of the hip, knee or spine with long-lasting, durable materials that take over the functions of the damaged bones. Surgeons and manufacturers have made remarkable advances in this area over the last few decades. Replacement surgery is performed over 400,000 times a year in the US with an outstanding rate of success. Not known to many, the procedure has been performed in the Philippines since the early 1970s.

Lola Estelita lost no time in seeking out Dr. Peter S. Bernardo, an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in joint replacement, at UP-PGH.

After a thorough checkup and several x-rays, Dr. Bernardo recommended an operation for Lola because her bones had absolutely no more cartilage cushion to absorb the shock and stress of walking. No wonder she was in great pain. Her children suggested that she have just one knee operated first. "No! *Sabay na 'yan*!" she protested. "*Mas mahirap pa yung isa-isa.*"

Like a miracle

Lola underwent the operation and later woke up flat on her back, with wooden support on her feet. It hurt, she admitted, but after three days, she could already turn on her side. One week later, she started her therapy.

The results were amazing. "In four to five days, I could stand on my own," she proudly recounted. "In a week's time, *nakakalakad na ako*. They gave me a cane to use at first. But when I left the hospital, I did not use a cane anymore."

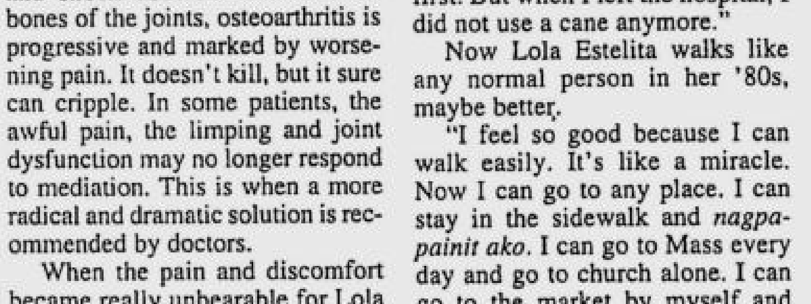
Now Lola Estelita walks like any normal person in her '80s, maybe better.

"I feel so good because I can walk easily. It's like a miracle. Now I can go to any place. I can stay in the sidewalk and *nagpapainit ako*. I can go to Mass every day and go to church alone. I can go to the market by myself and just bring an umbrella with me, just in case *may mga* steps *na hindi ko kaya*. Now I can even kneel down to pray."

Recently, the Patients of Orthopaedic Partners—Lola Estelita was one—held a forum co-sponsored with Johnson & Johnson Medical Philippines at the Club Filipino. Over 20 happy patients of joint replacement surgery attended and exchanged similar tales of happiness and relief. With Dr. Edward HM Wang, another leading orthopaedic surgeon who holds clinic at the UP-PGH, Cardinal Santos Hospital and Manila Doctors Hospital, Dr. Bernardo informed post-op patients, their families and friends about treatment options, the process of the surgery and how best to cope during the recovery period.

At the forum, the doctors said the best proof that bone replacement surgery works was that one couldn't tell who were the hip and knee replacement patients and who were not. All guests came to the forum walking by themselves.

Visit www.ortho.com.ph or www.allaboutarthritis.com. Call Orthopaedic Partners Hotlines 727-7672/0001 local 823.



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Gerontological Nurses Specialization programs ongoing

WEEKLY DOSAGE

DEAN Yolanda Camello Viloria revealed to the media during its recent training courses, GNS III's target global market—countries like the United Kingdom, the USand Canada, plus other major continents.

Viloria's vision is called the "Voice of the Elderly/Nurses," which aims to provide nurses and the elderly in Philippine society, their dignity worthy of their age, talents and calling. She personally conducts intensive training courses for nurses with specialization for the elderly via Gerontological Home Nursing Philippines, Gerontological Nurse Specialists International and the Global Nurse Specialist Training Center—comprising the G-Group of Nursing Organizations.

Ongoing programs include a practicum with the elderly clientele for a period of two weeks using home/hospital and community settings. To date, the GHNP Training Center is the sole and pioneering institution in the country that produces Gerontological Nurses Specialist in the caring for the elderly. Its main objective includes updates on gerontological nursing (the latest trend in specialty nursing) duly accredited by the PRC/CPE for 40 credit units and to train the first batch of GNS in the Philippines and employment in local, regional and international global levels. Global Nurse Specialist Training Center is the third in the group, which is currently training care assistants/care attendants from allied/non-allied professions as careers. Call 364-5345 or visit GJ Building, Suite 304, 385 Quezon Ave., QC.

KIMBERLY-CLARK Philippines Inc. feminine care marketing team's senior product manager Aileen Joaquin (second from right) and product managers Iris Yu (extreme left) and Beverly Fugaban (center) with National Commission for the Rights of Filipino Women executive director Ermelita Valdeavilla and model-comedienne Wilma Doesnt during the National Women's Month celebration at the PhilSports Arena, Pasig City

HEALTH BOOK. International ginseng expert Florence Lee's latest book titled "About Ginseng: The Elixir of Life" discusses the health benefits derived from the said neutraceutical product. Lee presents findings discovered

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St. Luke's holds fora on June 19 and 28

ST. Luke's Medical Center's Cancer Institute focuses on "knowing one's medicine" in its Monthly Patients' Forum on June 19, 10 a.m.-12 nn, at the Cancer Institute Conference Room, 4/F Main Building, QC.

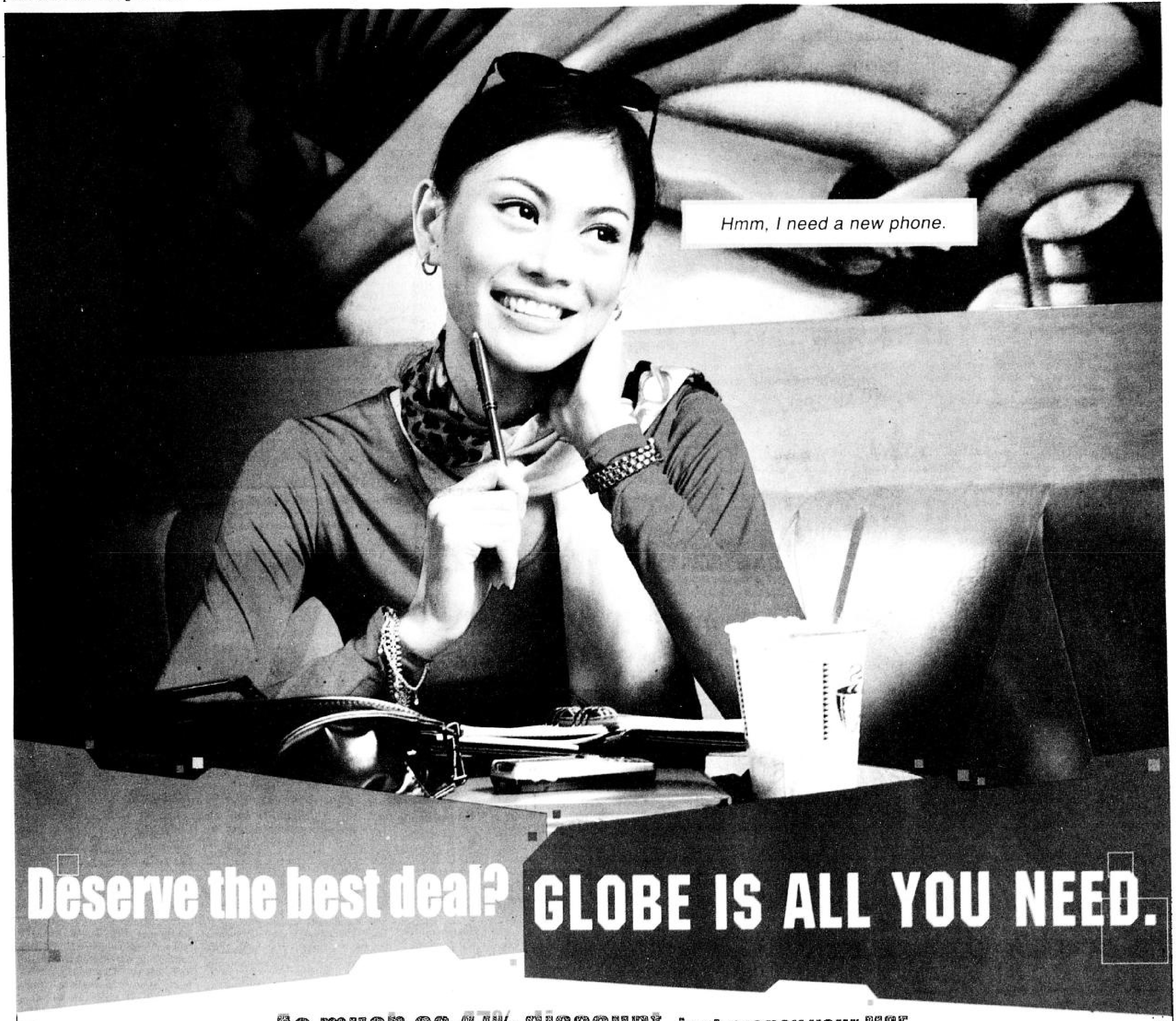
Invited speakers are representatives from pharmaceutical companies that manufacture cancer medicines. They will be given five to 10 minutes to talk about the composition, indications and the side effects of their products.

Call Dr. Rochi Cabio, St. Luke's Consultation Liaison Psychiatry Fellow, through pager 1277-55289 or St. Luke's Cancer Information Office at 723-0301 local 5427.

Meanwhile, its Menopause Clinic, under the leadership of Dr. Joan Tan-Garcia, holds a layman's forum titled "Why Do Women Need Hormones? How About Men?" on June 28, 8:30 a.m.-12 nn, at the 14/F Auditorium, Cathedral Heights Building Complex.

St. Luke's Menopause Clinic holds a quarterly layman's forum, and this will focus primarily on the changes that happen to the body when one reaches menopause, including hormone replacement therapy (HRT) for women, as well as male menopause or andropause.

Call 723-0301 local 7286.



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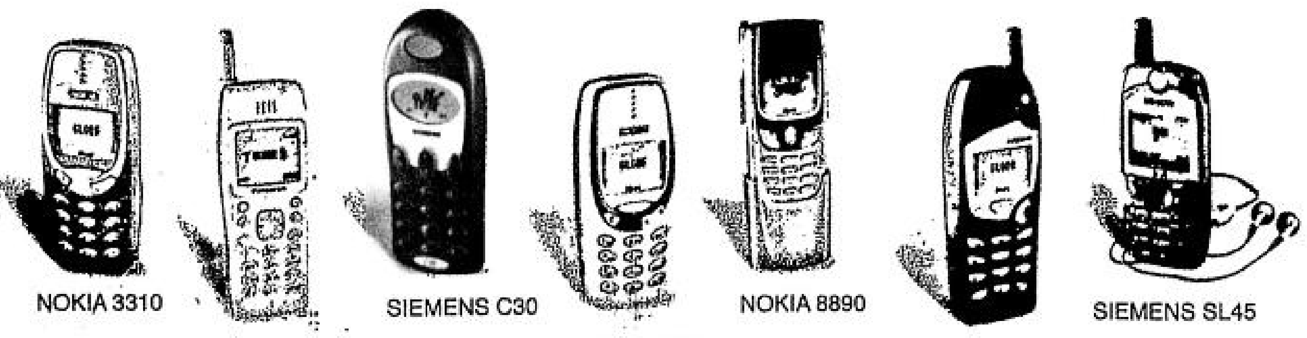

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How do we heal the earth?

By Gino Dormiendo

THE WORLD is facing its worst crisis ever. In virtually all aspects of life, our generation has witnessed widespread catastrophe, from famine in many parts of Africa and the recurrence of strange diseases (such as the mad cow's disease) in Europe to the devastation wrought by environmental disasters (earthquakes, floods, volcanic eruptions, and our own seemingly insurmountable garbage crisis).

Nowhere is the threat more palpable than in the man-made environmental crisis, which has gone beyond specific geographic regions and now covers the entire planet. The global threats—from the greenhouse effect and ozone depletion to global warming and the El Niño phenomenon—will inevitably affect that which activist-philosopher Jeremy Rifkin calls the "very viability of life on earth."

Indeed, scientists have accurately predicted a 4 to 9-degree rise in the earth's surface temperature as a result of our destructive and reckless ways in spewing toxic gases into the atmosphere. The gases have so accumulated in the atmosphere that countries with temperate climates are slowly being transformed into tropical hotbeds.

With the continuous release of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) from man-made products into the air, the ozone layer cannot be protective shield for the planet much longer. The ultra-violet radiation that is unleashed has upset the immune systems of all living creatures, including the species of flora and fauna from where we depend for our food and survival. If this goes unchecked, scientists predict that more than 15 percent of the remaining species of plant and animal life will be exterminated before the end of the century.

Subverting nature

The present crisis facing the environment and its consequences on life itself are the result of modern man's attempts to subvert nature and impose his will based on a materialistic, consumer-oriented, technology-dependent philosophy. Man has become so estranged from the natural world, a world upon which he relies for growth and sustenance.

The greed with which the multinational corporations dispatch their day-to-day conduct of business has likewise wrought havoc on the natural order, obsessed as they are with the belief that the greater the consumption the faster the growth.

Efficiency has become the order of the day, which means that maximizing output in the minimum time will help achieve the fullness of our earthly life. Our society today dictates that to be productive individuals, we need to perform our tasks with utmost efficiency, be it at the workplace, at home and for the rest of the community. But we know that while efficiency is a valuable trait, it must be tempered by sustainability; that is, adjusting our short-term needs to the long-term goals. All living things are resources that need to be managed with reason and compassion, not merely for their material value but more for their innate right to exist and experience the fullness of life.

It is, therefore, of paramount importance that man reacquaints himself with the natural world and renews his partnership with nature.

The ecological balance that we all seek to achieve can only come about if we begin to transform ourselves, reassess our world view, reform our institutions, and finally, restore the earth to its rightful place in the scheme of things.

> We need a new way of thinking that is founded on empathy rather than selfishness, partnership rather than isolation, sustainability rather than expediency

We can succeed in this task, first and foremost, by living an ecological lifestyle, a completely new way of thinking that is founded on empathy rather than selfishness, partnership rather than isolation, sustainability rather than expediency, and indebtedness to the environment rather than expansionism through production and consumption.

By adopting an ecological lifestyle, we must learn to imbibe and practice a back-to-basics approach in using energy and products at home. We need environmental cleaning every day of our lives. We must learn to protect the earth by working with it—through organic gardening, tree-planting and sustainable farming.

We must also learn to conserve our resources, such as energy and water, and learn how to reduce as well as dispose of waste, starting with our own household. Trash and other wastes aggravate the solid waste crisis and cause air and water pollution.

Buying with eco-awareness

Whenever we shop, remember that everything we buy—food, clothing, toiletries, necessities or luxury items alike—creates an impact on the environment. From the plastic bottles we throw away to the new car we acquire, everything has an impact on the environment and the ecosystems.

We all need to take charge of the environment and rid it of toxins, carcinogens, mutagens and allergens. The United Nations' World Health Organization has warned us that damage to human health stems more from indoor pollution than outdoor pollution.

We also have to be well advised about the role of food and nutrition not only in our health but in that of the earth as well. Our choices of food can serve as a link between life and death, health and disease, the enhancement or destruction of life itself. Always remember that fat, salt, refined sugar and processed foods have all been associated with cancer, obesity, diabetes, atherosclerosis, angina, kidney diseases and cancer.

If we aspire to become politically correct consumers, we must know when to purchase and not to purchase. By buying less, by repairing and recycling used products, by purchasing only environmentally safe and humanely produced products, we are learning to value the environment's resources. Whenever the product or the manufacturer has jeopardized the safety and protection of the consumer, the consumer has to exercise his prerogative by way of a deliberate and concerted action to isolate, economically or socially, any individual, business, group or nation in order to obtain concessions or to express displeasure with certain acts or practices.

This tactic, called boycott, has been used by various groups for centuries and remains a viable weapon in the continuing fight for a life-affirming and life-sustaining environment.

Safeguarding the environment in daily operations

WHEN a company says it is "set to meet the everyday needs of people everywhere in the Philippines," its employees—from the administration down to the maintenance crew—must be one dedicated bunch. Such company, whose employees' dedication also includes preserving the environment, is Unilever Philippines.

Taking a cue from Unilever's global culture of respect for its environs, the company gives utmost priority to its environmental responsibilities. It continuously seeks ways to help preserve its surroundings, even making it an integral part of its daily operations.

Mother Nature

Unilever Phils. has a research and engineering division equipped to ensure the biodegradability of its many consumer products. Before a new product is introduced to the market, the product and all its ingredients pass through rigid clearance systems. This quality control program is what makes Unilever Phils. one of the country's most admired companies when it comes to being environment-friendly.

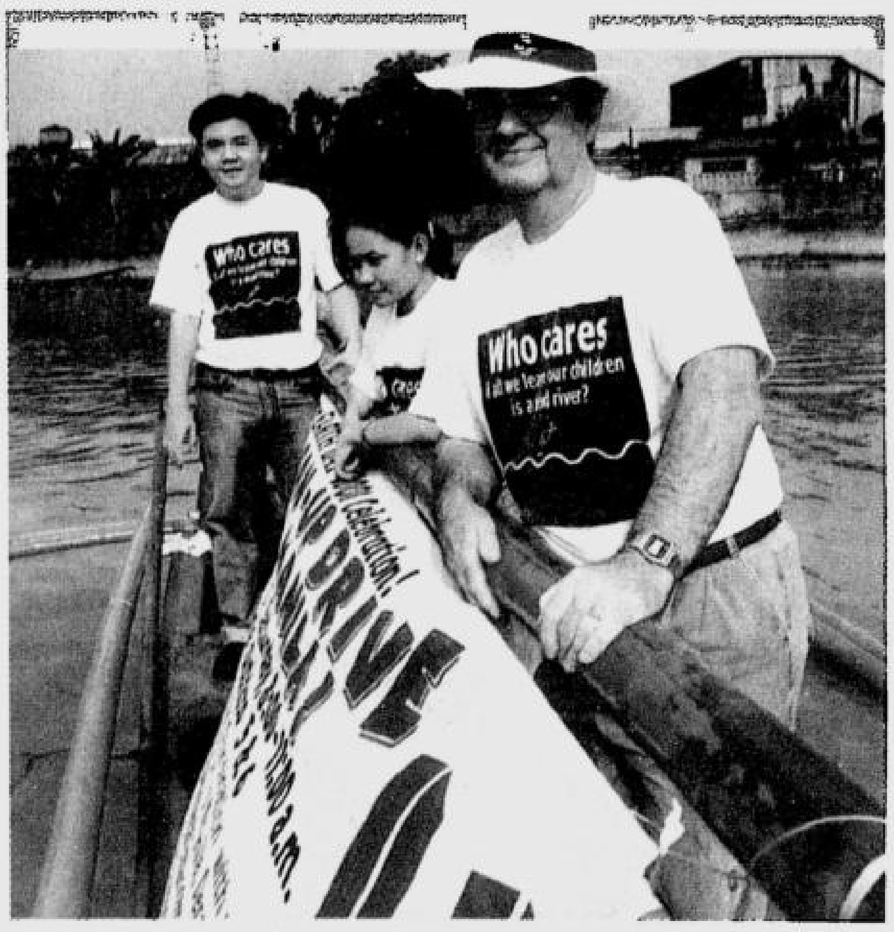
Unilever also has a waste-reduction program with three divisions: wastewater, solid waste and air contaminants reduction. To minimize wastewater, the company recycles water solution when and where it can. The company also filters oils and other chemicals from process water, which also reduces the pollution load to the wastewater treatment plant.

For solid waste reduction, Unilever Phils. practices segregation and recycling, which results in reduced materials for disposal to landfills. Raw materials are properly handled, stored and transported, minimizing spillage and resulting in higher yields in finished products.

To help lessen air pollution, the leading consumer goods manufacturer had an emission control facility installed in its plants. These facilities are permitted and regularly inspected by the Laguna Lake Development Authority.

For the company's community projects, Unilever Phils.' environmental programs are molded on the company's belief in the Filipino's desire for self-development and excellence. The "Paco Environmental Enhancement Program" (PEEP), for example, was able to reap for the Paco Market an award as the cleanest market. The market went from being the source of Estero de Paco's pollution to that of cleanliness and organization, thanks to Unilever's training of the various market organizations.

Unilever Phils. also helps revitalize the legendary Pasig River through its "Save the Pasig River" campaign. Unilever Phils. also supports the city government of Manila's "Clean and Green" program by donating over 3,000 garbage drums to the country's capital. Also, in support of the Department of Health's (DOH) antismoking campaign, the company has made it a policy to ban smoking in its premises. This does not only improve the employees' health, it also serves as a fire-safety precaution for Unilever.



UNILEVER Phils. president and CEO Howard Belton (right) oversees company employees while aboard a banca during the company's Earth Day 2001 clean-up drive along the Pasig River.

Involving the youth

In its efforts to involve the youth, Unilever Phils. recently launched "Kabataan para sa Kalikasan," a contest which aims to teach students the importance of caring for their surroundings. The contest enjoins students to submit projects documenting any environmental program their school or community is currently undertaking. Included in the projects are the participants' contribution to their school environment programs.

The environmental contest is part of the Clean River Zone project (CRZ), an ongoing campaign by Unilever Phils., the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM), the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS) and City Council of Manila (CCM).

With the exception of "Kabataan para sa Kalikasan," which is on its pilot year, these various programs have earned for Unilever Phils. different awards and citations. One of which is the "Mother Nature Award," given to the company by the Pollution Control Association of the Philippines. It was given in 1999 in conjunction with several government bodies, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Unilever Phils. also received the ISO 14001 accreditation for its environment management systems last November and became a two-time awardee of the "Dangal ng Pasig" award from the Sagip Pasig Movement. Unilever Phils. was named the "Most Environment-friendly Establishment" by the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) for its involvement in projects by the Laguna Lake Development Authority and the Manila City Mayor's Clean and Green campaign.

The awards were recognitions for Unilever Phils.' active involvement in environment conservation and preservation, but more importantly, they symbolize Unilever's commitment to uplift the lives of Filipinos by giving them a better place to live in.

BELTON (right) helps unfurl a banner during the company's clean-up drive.

UNILEVER Phils. employees help clean up the company premises during the Manila city government's "Clean and Green" program.

Goodbye to POPs soon–and good riddance

AFTER SEVERAL decades and Rachel Carson's warning, the so-called "dirty dozen"' got their comeuppance after some 120 countries agreed to sign on May 23 in Sweden the historic Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) seeking the elimination and banning of some of the most toxic chemicals known to man.

The treaty sets out control measures covering the production, import, export, disposal and use of an initial list of 12 POPs. The dirty dozen, otherwise known as POPs, are some of the most dangerous chemicals ever invented by man.

To be eliminated and banned under the convention are eight pesticides: aldrin, chlordane, DDT, dieldrin, endrin, heptachlor, mirex and toxaphene. Two industrial chemicals—PCBs and hexachlorobenzene, which is also a pesticide—and two unwanted byproducts of combustion and industrial processes—dioxins and furans—are meeting the same fate.

The Philippines has already banned the use of heptachlor, endrin and chlordane, among others.

Persistent problems

POPs are chemical substances that persist in the environment, bioaccumulate through the food web, and pose a risk of causing adverse effects to human health, to animals and to the environment.

Although POPs have been confirmed by research to have negative effects on health, they are still widely used especially among developing countries. They are dangerous because they take a long time to dissolve—hence the term "persistent."

These pollutants accumulate in the bodies of living things and can travel thousands of kilometers from their point of release, transported by animals that take the POPs into their bodies.

As the POPs move up the food chain, concentrations get higher. This means that creatures on top of the food chain, including us humans, are especially at risk.

Some of the adverse health effects of POPs on humans include immune dysfunction, neurological deficits, reproductive anomalies, behavioral abnormalities and cancer.

Developing fetuses and nursing infants are especially at risk due to their sensitivity. Exposure to POPs may even occur through the POPs-carrying mother's breast milk.

It is very difficult to clean up POPs. Even after decades of expensive clean-up, there is still a high concentration of POPs in the wildlife population.

Dirty dozen

> The Stockholm Convention seeks to eliminate the dirty dozen that ravages our one and only planet

Aldrin is a pesticide used in controlling soil insects such as termites, corn rootworm, wireworms, rice water weevil and grasshoppers. It has been widely used to protect crops, such as corn and potatoes, and has been effective to protect wooden structures from termites, Aldrin is toxic to humans. Only 5 g of aldrin is needed for it to be lethal to an adult human, equivalent to 83 mg/kg body weight. Signs and symptoms of aldrin intoxication may include headache, dizziness, nausea, general malaise and vomiting, followed by muscle twitchings, myoclonic jerks and convulsions.

Dieldrin has been used in agriculture for the control of soil insects and several insect vectors of disease. Its use against insect vectors, however, has been banned in a number of countries due to environmental and human health concerns. Principal contemporary uses are restricted to the control of termites, other woodborers and against textile pests.

Neither dioxins nor furans are produced commercially, and they have no known use. They are byproducts resulting from the production of other chemicals. Dioxins maybe released into the environment through the production of pesticides and other chlorinated substances.

Furans are a major contaminant of PCBs. Both dioxins and furans are related to a variety of incineration reactions, and the synthesis and use of a variety of incineration of hospital, municipal and hazardous wastes, car emissions, and the incineration of coal, peat and wood. As with most other organochlorines, food is an origin contributing the most to human body burdens.

At present, the only persistent effect associated with dioxin exposure in humans is chloracne. Other health effects that have been reported include peripheral neuropathies, fatigue, depression, personality changes and hepatitis.

Endrin is a foliar insecticide used mainly on field crops such as cotton and grains. It has also been used as a rodenticide to control mice and voles. The main source of endrin exposure to the general population is residues in food.

Heptachlor is a nonsystemic stomach and contact insecticide. It is used primarily against soil insects and termites. The World Health Organization (WHO) suggests that food is the major source of exposure of heptachlor to the general population. Heptachlor has been detected in the blood of cattle from both the United States and Australia.

Hexachlorobenzene (HCB) is a fungicide that was first introduced in 1945 for seed treatment, especially for control of bunt of wheat. It is also a byproduct of the manufacture of industrial chemicals including carbon tetrachloride, perschlorethylene, trichloroethylene and pentachlorbenzene. HCB is ubiquitous in the environment, and has been measured in foods of all types.

Mirex is a stomach insecticide with little contact activity. Its main use was against fire ants in the southeastern United States. It has also been used to combat leaf cutters in South America, harvester termites in South Africa, Western harvester ants in the US, and mealybug of pineapple in Hawaii. It has also been used as a fire retardant in plastics, rubber, paint, paper and electrical goods. The main route of exposure of mirex to the general population is through food, especially meat and fish.

Taxaphene is a nonsystemic and contact insecticide used primarily on cotton, cereal grains, fruits, nuts and vegetables. It has also been used to control ticks and mites in livestock.

Dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDT) is a potent nerve poison pesticide used to eradicate disease-carrying and crop-eating insects. Presently, it is still being used extensively throughout the world to combat yellow fever, typhus, elephantiasis and other insect-vectored diseases. By entering the food chain through spraying in crops, and eventually in higher animals, it has caused reproductive dysfunctions.

Clean Air Act

But even before the treaty takes effect, the Philippines has already been working against the POPs.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resoures-Environmental Management Bureau is the country's lead agency in the handling of matters pertaining to industrial chemicals and its unintended byproducts as mandated under Republic Act 6969, otherwise known as the Toxic Substances, Hazardous and Nuclear Waste Act, and R.A. 8749.

The FPA, meanwhile, is mandated to handle matters regarding pesticides under Presidential Decree 1144.

Under Republic Act 8749, otherwise known as the Clean Air Act of 1999, the DENR is already addressing the issue of POPs.

The EMB, following the mandates of the Act, is already preparing an inventory of all sources of POPs in the country and will outline a national program for their reduction and elimination.

The Bureau is also coordinating with agencies such as the Department of Agriculture and the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA) in the preparation of the inventory list and national program. Among the heavy users of POPs are the agricultural, health and housing sectors.

The Stockholm Convention on POPs is one of the initiatives arising from the 1992 Earth Summit.

It is the culmination of efforts to establish an internationally binding treaty to reduce and eventually eliminate emissions of POPs, which started in June 1998 in Montreal, Canada, and ended in December last year in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Gerontological Nurses Specialization programs ongoing

(From page C9)

by ginseng research scientists worldwide, and a comprehensive historical background of Chinese medical principles—including those for herbal medicine and acupuncture—"to help the reader understand how the tonic effects of ginseng render various efficacies claimed for centuries." Visit Insai Corp. at the 3/F Cuevas Tower Condominium, Pedro Gil corner Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila or call 526-1860 or 523-6211.

NEW PRODUCT. Pucelle Fresh Cologne, a product of Mandom Philippines Corp.'s, now has a talc line. Pucelle Perfumed Talc is as delicate as the Pucelle scents and made of water-absorbing ultra-fine powder. This special talc blend spreads smoothly and evenly on the skin, absorbing moisture and creating that dry, smooth sensation. It is enriched with triclosan, thus preventing the formation of worrisome body odor and allows for longer-lasting clean-and-dry feeling.

Pucelle Perfumed Talc also comes in different scents and allows for scent layering when used with Pucelle Fresh Cologne. There are four variants: Pucelle Perfumed Talc in Musk, Chypre, Marine and Rose. One can wear a different scent each time to give off a different impression. Pucelle Perfumed Talc comes in trendy packaging and is available in two sizes: 100 g for long-time use and 50 g for everyday, stuff-it-in-your handbag purposes. Available at all leading malls and department stores nationwide.

OHM
Face Washing Gel
Body Scrub

SPLASH Manufacturing Corp. has launched its first line of hygiene products specially formulated for men—OHM. Included are the Full Body Sanitizer, Face Washing Gel, All Day Sweat Guard and Body Scrub. All four products come in three scents: Power, Kinetic and Contact, and are available in leading groceries, supermarkets and department stores nationwide.

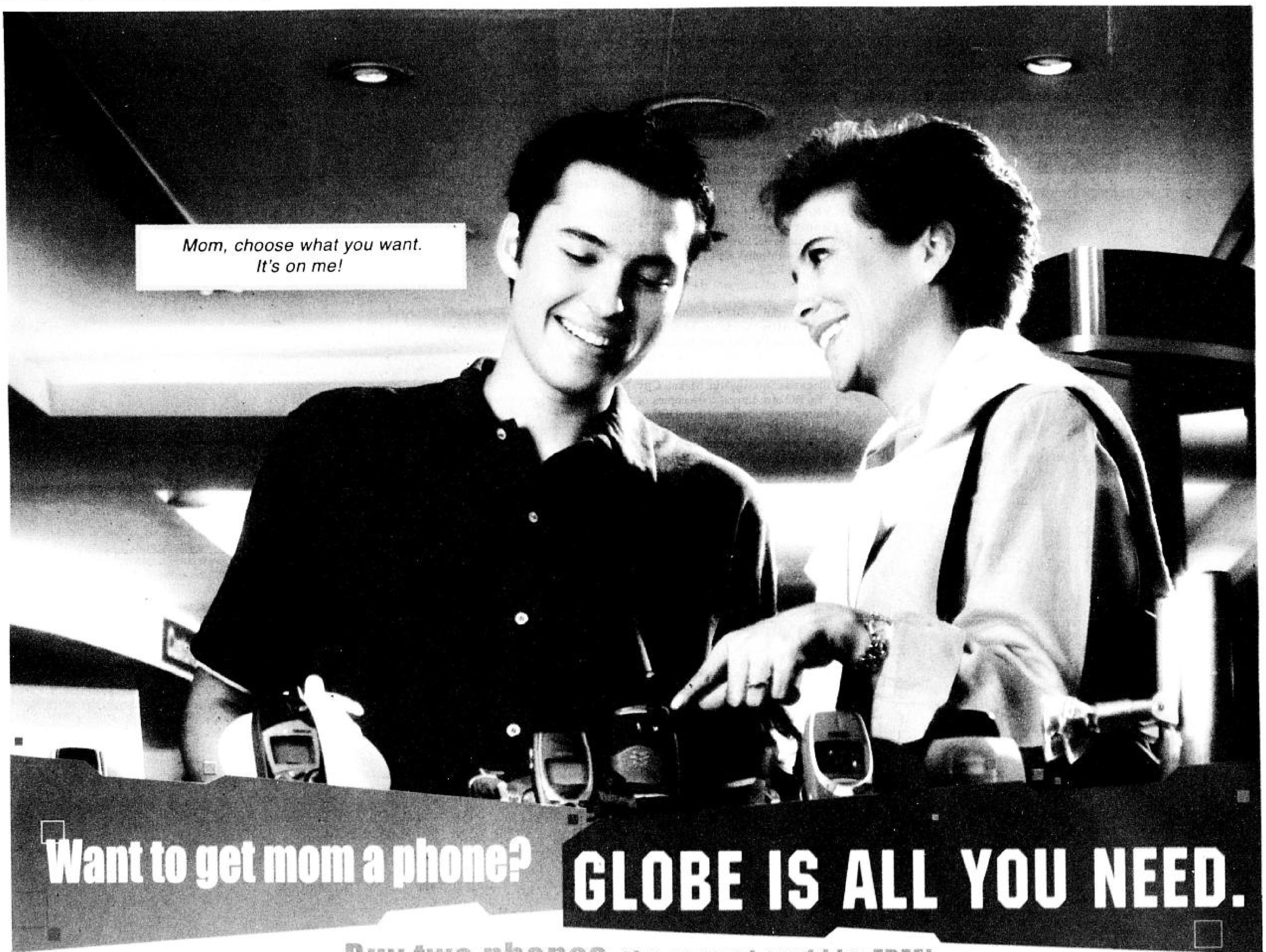
Anlene
Hi-Calcium
Anlene
Gold
Hi-Calcium

NEW Zealand Milk (Philippines) Inc. introduces Anlene Chocolate Powder. Anlene Chocolate is from the Anlene brand, the only milk clinically proven to prevent bone loss in Asian women. Available in 180 g (trial size) and 450 g pack sizes.

Rexona
SPORT

INTERZONAL TOURNEY RUNNER-UP

Unilever Philippines senior brand manager for deodorants Jeff Lunde (third from right) awards the Brgy. SMJ, Pasig Ram with a trophy and a mock-up check worth P35,000 during the Rexona Interzonal Basketball Invitational Tournament championships held recently at the Marikina Sports Complex. Launched in 12 key cities in Metro Manila, the games followed a single knockout format, with the Don Bosco Referees Association officiating.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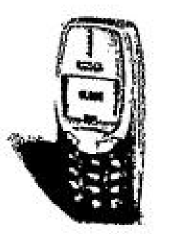
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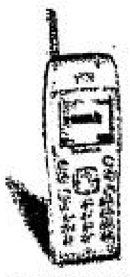
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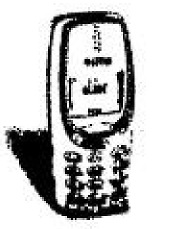
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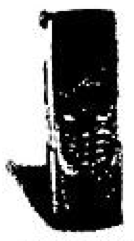
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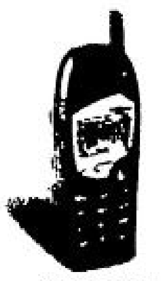
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Siemens SL45	24,000	23,000	22,000	21,000	23,000	20,500	18,000	15,500	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Panasonic GD93	14,500	13,500	12,500	11,500	13,500	11,000	8,500	6,000	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nokia 3330	6,500	5,500	4,500	3,500	5,500	3,000	500	FREE	9,290	8,990	8,640	8,190
Nokia 3310	4,000	3,000	2,000	1,000	3,000	500	FREE	FREE	6,690	6,390	6,040	5,590
Nokia 5110i	2,500	1,500	500	FREE	1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	4,790	4,490	4,140	3,690
Siemens C30	2,500	1,500	500	FREE	1,500	FREE	FREE	FREE	4,790	4,490	4,140	3,690
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PR Counsellor Virgilio Q. Pantaleon greets Dr. Estefania Aldaba-Lim and daughter Dr. Nina Lim-Yuson

PATRICIA Mae G. Cielo flanked by her assistant principal Amelia Ronquillo from Colegio de San Agustin and teacher Alicia Ganzon

IHMA principal Aurora Baang of Mati, Davao, winner Jenny Fadul, sister Ivy, mom Josephine and aunt Liza Fadul

Nature stories from the young

THREE young writers, grand-prize winners of the 7th RCBC Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan short story writing contest, were honored during closing ceremonies at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Makati City recently.

They received their awards from RCBC vice chair and CEO Alfonso S. Yuchengco III and Sonia M. Roco, wife of Education Secretary Raul Roco. The guest speaker was the newly appointed Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

WINNER Ritchel A. Modal with a delegation from Palinta, Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur. (L-R) Ida Viloria, Ernesta Dango, principal of Palinta Elementary School; Nida Elesterio, Pilipino teacher and adviser; mom Gloria Modal and Fortunata Veloria

Each of the three winners received P30,000, a trophy and a scholarship package worth P25,000 from Pacific Plans Inc. Their winning stories will be published in the RCBC Nature Stories Book VIII. Their schools each received P20,000 and a trophy while the homeroom advisers received P5,000 each.

During the awarding ceremony, the winning stories were interpreted by actors from the Peta Theater Group.

Ritchel A. Modal, a grade four student of Palinta Elementary School, Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur, won the grand prize for Segment A—Pilipino Category for her story "Ang Latian ng Palinta."

Winner of Segment B—Pilipino Category is the story "Malayo Pa ang Umaga" by Jenny Pearl L. Fadul, grade three student of Immaculate Heart of Mary Academy, Mati, Davao Oriental. Top honors for Segment B—English Category went to "Renaissance... A New Beginning" by Patricia Mae C. Cielo, grade seven student at Colegio de San Agustin, Makati City.

RCBC also turned over copies of the RCBC Nature Stories Book VIII to DECS through Ms Roco. The RCBC Nature Stories Book is an activity book published annually in conjunction with the winning stories of the Kuwentong Kalikasan contest. It is given free and available in all RCBC branches nationwide.

As part of the Kuwentong Kalikasan program, RCBC conducted an art lecture and on-the-spot painting contest for grade six pupils of selected Makati City schools before the awarding ceremony. Multiawarded artist and teacher Fernando Seña conducted an art lecture on the Basics of Painting followed by an on-the-spot painting competition.

Artist Mauro "Malang" Santos headed the board of judges for the painting contest, joined by veteran artist Cris Cruz, chair of the Saturday Group, and Seña.

The RCBC 7th Kuwentong Kalikasan Katha ng Kabataan is an annual project of RCBC with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. It aims to make children aware of the importance of protecting the environment. At the same time, the contest hopes to develop in them a keen appreciation of good writing.

ALFONSO Yuchengco III and Sonia Malasarte-Roco with Patricia Mae C. Cielo, first place, Segment B-English category, "Renaissance...A New Beginning"; Ritchel A. Modal, first place, Segment A-Pilipino Category, "Ang Latian ng Palinta (Isang Alamat); and Jenny Pearl L. Fadul, first place, Segment B-Pilipino Category, "Malayo Pa ang Umaga"

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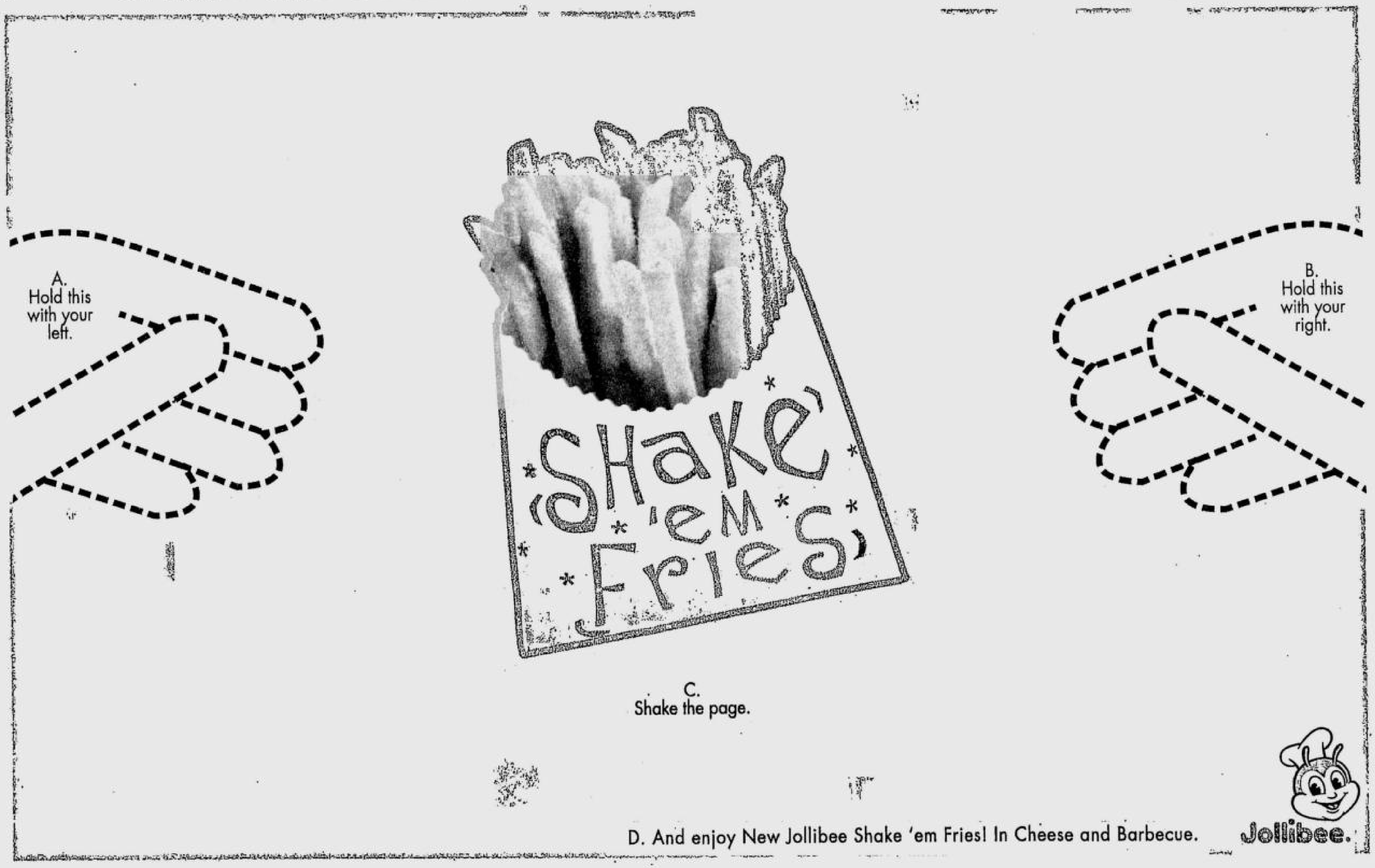

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